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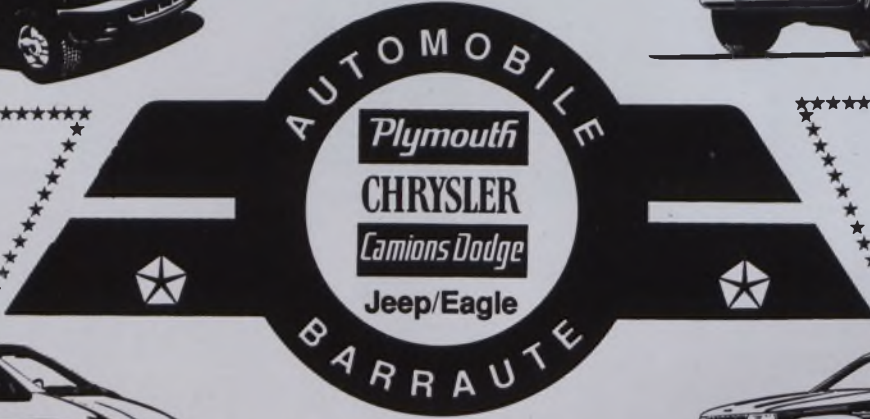
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CELEBRATING OUR 100TH ISSUE

The silence from people holding their breath was deafening. We sent the first issue of *The Nation* not knowing there would be a second one. Our first issue came out in December 1993, since then we have brought you 100 issues, sometimes by the skin of our teeth. In the beginning it was a labour of love. We hadn't paid ourselves for the first few months. All the founding members, and employees who followed, share a common goal of providing the best service possible to the Cree Nation. We are doing this because we know that news in the printed form is needed to compliment the Cree radio communications.

It was scary to put the first classified in to announce our daughter's birth. We didn't think people would respond. People held their breath for a while longer. We waited... We waited for a response. Nothing for a while. Then some classifieds trickled in. Soon the classifieds filled a half page, then a page. A whole page! Wow. Then people couldn't hold their breath any longer. Then we got flooded. We were flooded with your stories. Stories that need to be told. Every poem has a story. Every classified has a story. The Cree Nation is full of stories that need to be told.

We had no idea what we were doing when we first started. On the job training, I believe, is what it's called. We learned as we went along. There were some expensive lessons. We learned them well. We kept going when we thought all was lost. We managed not to miss an issue since we started. We are proud of that.

"Why do you do so many negative stories!?" Many times I have heard that question. We have tried to "justify" ourselves many times in these pages. We have tried

to explain ourselves many times. I feel that the so-called "negative" stories are in fact positive. They are positive because of what they do. They foster a dialogue where there was none before.

We live in a quasi-communist system. Too many times I have heard of someone trying to do the right thing. Unfortunately the person doing the right thing goes against someone or an entity that has some degree of power over him. It is so easy for someone to be politically, socially and monetarily ostracized. There is not a lot room for dissent in the communities. One of our goals at *The Nation* is to introduce a level of dissent so that the issues can be discussed. Issues that used to be swept under the rug and allowed to fester. How many times have you heard about someone who is accountable to the people doing something they should not be doing? How many times have you wished someone did something about it? We are trying to do something. We are trying to do our part. Our part in being a strong Cree Nation. Otherwise we would just curl up and crawl into a hole. To do our work we need your continued support.

Each issue of *The Nation* is special, each one is unique. Each one brought joy. Each one brought laughter. Each one brought tears. Each one brought rage... That is good. Without any of those we are nothing.

I want to thank and congratulate the people who have helped bring you *The Nation*. Will, Alex, Catherine, Neil, Katerina, Linda, Brian, Rhonda, Deantha, Nian, Johanne, Yvon, Pierre, Stella, Nancy... I also want to thank you for allowing us to share your stories in *The Nation*. Thank you and God bless.

by Ernest Webb

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ON THE COVER

Most of our covers

design: Katerina Cizek &
Neil Diamond



Read my lips. One hundred. One huundred big ones. It wouldn't have been possible without you awful people. Thank you. It's all your fault we live in mansions, eat at the finest restaurants, stumble around in clubs spending the money you gave us. That is the greatest gift to give in business. We sure as hell need it.

Memories:

Issue number - "It almost didn't make it!!!!!!!" - one comes out with a bang at the Val d'Or tournament. People, in one group, five, share a copy as many more sit muddy and wet on the floor. They're either reading the Coon Come interview or the Brant Blackned hockey story. We head back early, staying in Val d'Or less than a day. We had created a monster and had to get back to keep it alive.

The first letter-to-the-editor arrives thrilling everyone and the staff votes to keep the stamp. A concerned mother writes. She hates the photo of an armed eight-year-old boy. Also in the mail, is a letter from Santa.

The still to be popular classifieds section is only five messages full. One of them says, classified will be free only until February 1994.

Ernie and Catherine are joined in holy wedlock.

The monster is attacked several issues later. Two computers are stolen and a prize collection of music. Oh, and the documents. And a camera or two. Send money to address on masthead. Please.

We're on the road, and air, a lot. We head to Winneway to investigate bikers and dams. We drive through farm country and deep bush going 160 plus. Dams, always dams. •

A chief calls us long distance inviting us to a fight in a downtown location. The martial arts enthusiasts are amused.

Our first award is for an essay on the Mohawk pow wow.

Eleven more follow. Long live *The Nation*.

The triplets are born in Montreal. They're a media sensation. People call for their copy but we have few to spare. Too bad.

Alex and Will scam a trip to the ends of the earth to see Metallica. Rhonda joins them miraculously a day later in Tuktoyaktuk. She won't say how she did it to this day. God bless her.

The first color ad is sold. We celebrate our first color cover amid much discussion on photo. I don't know, I think I stormed out. The printer screws up and the cover is a mess. The monster survives with its pride intact.

Around this time, volume two number 18, the first inter-office affair takes off. Call for details.

A grueling seven or eight day trip following the HQ sponsored Raid Des Braves race. They go on a sickening power trip but we make the finish and I screw up the photo. I have to go up and represent my chief and community in front of hundreds of people with a black eye. Embarrassing.

Reports trickle in of unidentified flying, glowing objects in James Bay skies. Get us the photos. Please.

A bay appear in seconds north of Great Whale. It's a damn cover up. The Nation's intrepid are dispatched but come back, more or less empty handed. The truth must be told.

The "100th" approaches. Planning begins in stops and starts.

It is here, the Monster cometh. Read my lips, fifty pages. Fiiifty big ones.

by Ndiamon

the Nation

editorial board

Ernest Webb, William Nicholls, Alex Roslin

director of operations

Catherine Bainbridge

Iyiyuu Ayimuun editor

Brian Webb

photography

Neil Diamond

graphic designer

Katerina Cizek

director of finances

Linda Ludwick

director of marketing

Rhonda Sherwood

director of northern sales

Deantha Edmunds

director of sales

Johanne Grenon

(Chibougamau) - (418) 748-4229

sales representative - Val d'Or

Yvon Boisvert (819) 874-2078

special projects

Stella Lameboy, Nancy Bobbish

layout & production

E. Webb, A. Roslin, W. Nicholls, N. Diamond

administrative assistant

Nian Matoush

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PLEASE ADDRESS CORRESPONDENCE TO:

THE NATION PRODUCTION OFFICE

5678 PARC AVE.

P.O. BOX 48036

MONTREAL, CANADA H2V 4S8

EDITORIAL

TEL.: 514-272-3077, FAX: 514-278-9914

THE NATION HEAD OFFICE

P.O. BOX 151, CHISASIBI, QC. J0M 1E0

E-MAIL ADDRESS: beesum@odyssee.net

On the Web: <http://nisk.creenet.com/~nation/>

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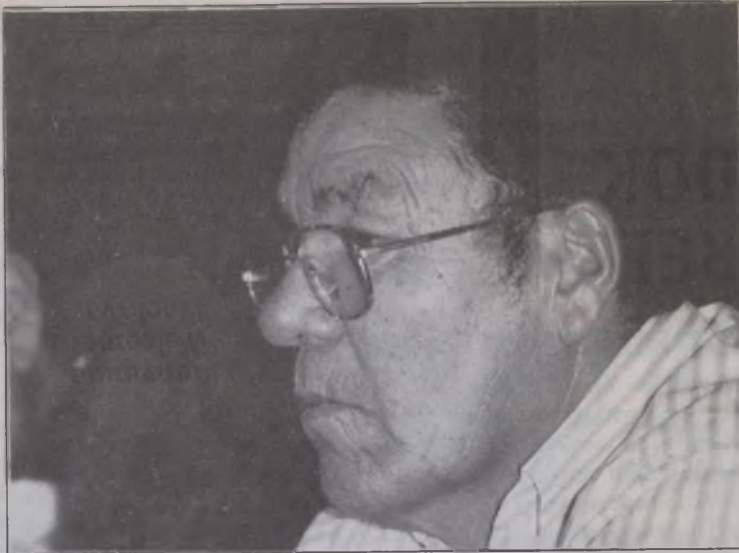
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PAYABLE TO BEESUM COMMUNICATIONS

Elder Samuel Bearskin of Chisasibi, and his wife Margaret, lived in the Caniapiscau area. They identified some of the Cree names given to the mountains.

PHOTO BY:
NEIL DIAMOND



QUEBEC WANTS PROOF OF CREE NAMES

French names are here to stay for the islands in the Caniapiscau Reservoir, at least for now. The Quebec government is in no hurry to correct the official map after mistakenly giving new names to the 101 islands.

Not realizing the islands already have Cree names, the government gave them new names from Quebec literature in an attempt to celebrate Quebec culture and Bill 101, the French Language Charter.

The government's mistake made headlines in Montreal newspapers in September after *The Nation* informed authorities about the Cree names. Two months later, we called the government to find out what has been done to correct the mistake. The answer is: nothing.

"It's an old story for us. Why are you bringing this up now?" asked Martin Roy, spokesman for Culture Minister Louise Beaudoin.

"There are over 300 islands in the reservoir. There are enough islands for everyone. The ball is in the Natives' camp. They have to prove the islands have Native names. We are open to any sort of discussion. We will be ready to move some of the names (to other islands)."

Christian Bonnelly of the Quebec Toponymy Commission said, "We did our work, us. If the Crees don't provide us with the information, we can't go everywhere to find information."

Bonnely confirmed that the upper part of the Caniapiscau River was given a new name, too: the Rene-Levesque River. The name was chosen to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the former premier's death. This part of the Caniapiscau River was cut off by the reservoir from the downstream part. "It's a river

that had no name," said Bonnelly.

Crees were never consulted about any of the new names. The government went ahead with the plan because a survey done 20 years ago identified no Cree names for the former mountains.

The linguist professor who did the survey says she probably missed many names because she didn't have enough money or time to do a complete survey. She blasted the government for proceeding in such a sloppy way, calling the move "an incredible insult to the Crees."

The Grand Council of the Crees says no one has contacted the Crees to ask for any names. "I didn't know they're waiting," said Bill Namagoose, executive director. "The onus is on them to correct their mistake. I think the Crees, Inuit and Naskapi are willing to cooperate. The names are known. We just have to document them. Just because they're not on Quebec's map doesn't mean the names don't exist," he said.

"In the past, all the (name-finding) work was done by the Toponymy Commission. We just cooperated with their work. If the Quebec government wants us to make their maps, we're more than willing to do it. We'll rename everything if they give us the resources."

Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come sent a letter to Beaudoin Oct. 3 about the renaming plan, but the government has no plans to respond to the letter. "It is as if the damages to the land were being celebrated with poetry," the Grand Chief wrote.

THIS JUST IN: People with knowledge of the names will be asked to cooperate with an archaeologist the CRA is sending to Mistissini after Christmas to start a proper survey.

by Alex Roslin

CREE NAMES SHOULD BE RESPECTED: QUEBEC AUTHORS

Quebec authors say the original Cree names should be respected for the 101 islands in the Caniapiscau Reservoir.

"It's respect. I'm in agreement with giving back the name that was there before, just like in Abitibi I would not want someone to rename the places as if they had just been discovered," said Jean-Mance Delisle, a Rouyn-Noranda author.

"If they had a name that was given by the people who lived there, for them it had a very profound significance."

A phrase from Delisle's 1983 novel was used to give a new name to one of the islands in the reservoir. The new name is "L'Amante Ephemere" (The Fleeting Lover).

This island already has a Cree name, according to Chisasibi Elders Sam and Margaret Bearskin, who took the time to identify some of the Cree names given to the former mountains. They identified this island as "Bishkwaashkwaayaau" (Thick Forest Mountain).

Another island was named after a phrase in a novel by Pierre Turgeon, a Montreal author.

The new name is: "La Cavalier au Tricorne" (Horseman with a Three-Cornered Hat). Turgeon also disagreed with the plan when told the island already has a Cree name: "Aanaaukaashkwaayaach" (End of Mountain).

"You obviously have to respect the Cree names that were already there. That's clear," he said.

"Certainly it's a question of respect," agreed Montreal author Nicole Brassard, whose novel *Le Desert Mauve* was used as one of the names. The island's original Cree name is "Bishuchii" (Lynx Mountain). "If the mountain was called Bishuchii before and everyone used this name, what do you want me to tell you?"

Claude Prud'homme, director of Editions du Noroit, spoke on behalf of poet Rachel Leclerc, whose poem "Barocco" was used to rename yet another island.

"Personally I am entirely in agreement with them (Crees). We must keep the names given by the Native people who live in the area."

-Alex Roslin

SERVICE PRAISED

Letter to *The Nation*.

The majority of the time when I pick up to read *The Nation* on articles concerning entities within our Cree Nation we seem to point out the negative aspects of the organization. We should give credit where credit is due to entities trying to move the Cree Nation in the right direction.

Having said that I would like to point out some positive aspects of one entity in particular, the Air Creebec Airlines. They should be complimented, I believe, for moving in the right direction.

A case in point. I had the privilege of travelling from LG-2 airport to Montreal just recently on Air Creebec. The stopover at Chibougamau was only to pick up passengers and to refuel. There were no long delays such as the ones we have with Canadian Airlines when it had to land in Val d'Or on its way to Montreal. On a number of occasions (being a frequent flyer myself) the Canadian Airlines had quite a few delays for some unforeseen circumstances, whereas on Air Creebec I found that the delays were very minimal.

Also, when I arrived at Dorval airport and went to the luggage department, my

luggage was ready to be picked by the time I arrived at the conveyor belt. There were no long delays as with other airlines.

All the employees, the President and Board of Directors of Air Creebec should be complimented for their dedication and services for the work they are doing on behalf of the Cree Nation of James Bay.

Keep up the good work!

Allen Neacappo, Chisasibi

COMMUNITY RADIO

Letter to *The Nation*.

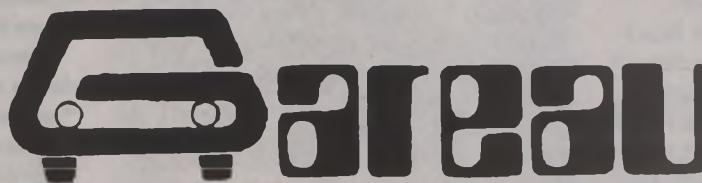
I am writing to address my concerns about the Wemindji local Community Radio station. I was in Wemindji in October 1997 for approximately two weeks visiting and hunting with my family and friends when I had noticed that their local radio station seems to only play music and not much information or announcements made. One evening I was listening to the radio and I had counted 14 songs being played without interruption. I was surprised to hear there were no announcements or information provided for community members who are either in town or out in their camps.

I feel that when a person or people work for their community radio station they

should try to look for ideas, programs that can be included in the programming of the radio station. I feel that if you are to work in a radio station you are there to try to offer what the people want in the community whether it be stories by Elders, weather reports, sports, school information, messages from the hospital, messages from the Chief and Council and the various entities in the community as well as the other communities and much more. There is an unlimited amount of information out there that can be shared with people.

I feel that it seems to be the only community that does not offer enough programming because I have been to most of the communities. I have also spoken to some of the Wemindji community members and they too felt that there could be much more offered rather than only playing music. I have spoken to some people who said they do not bother listening any more. I feel there is so much that can be offered to the community. I do not know if it has changed since but I felt that it was important to address because the radio is an important way of communicating among people in the communities just as important as writing and verbal expression.

James Stewart, Chisasibi



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GOOD LUCK TO ALL THE PARTICIPANTS!!

Ἰ. ΔΓϷΛΖΨ ΓΡ.Δ Ῥ.Δ° ΔΙΝ.ΔΨ

Merry Christmas/Happy New Year
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FEDS, QUEBEC LEAVE CTA OUT IN COLD

Three months with no pay for the executive of the Cree Trappers' Association and there is no end in sight for the CTA's budget problems.

"For now, we've exhausted everything. We don't have many options left now," says Edward Gilpin, CTA president.

"We're surviving. But it affects the employees. They're not sure if we're going to be around. Also, a lot of members called in asking if the office would be closed."

Gilpin said CTA operations have not been affected and the organization is not going into debt.

However, Gilpin, Simeon Pash and Thomas Coon were laid off as CTA executives when money ran out at the end of September.

The CTA will meet with the federal and Quebec governments on December 3 to ask for more funding. Feds, Quebec and Crees are supposed to each fund a third of the CTA's budget under the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement.

In fact, 70 per cent of the budget comes from the Cree side. Quebec pays for 20 per cent and the Feds fund 10 per cent.

Gilpin said the governments are "probably smiling" because their obligation to fund the CTA is "on the backburner."

He was happy with a decision by the Cree Regional Authority executive to contribute \$20,000 to help ease the CTA's budget problems. Each Cree community is also supposed to contribute \$20,000, but the CTA is still waiting for this money.

The lack of money has not only hurt CTA execs. Trappers feel it through the lack of programs and services, especially assistance to trappers with transport to more distant traplines,

which is very costly.

"The trappers need more programs to assist them," said Gilpin. The lack of money "makes it harder to go on the land. You can't go far from the community. That's the killer (transportation costs). It has a very detrimental effect on trappers. That's why some of these younger people who want to go in the bush can't afford to go."

Gilpin also asked the Cree chiefs to put more effort into helping trappers lobby the governments.

"Do you protect the way of life or the community needs? The trappers have been waiting for 20 years. Their patience is bound to run out," he said.

"It's time to look at our cultural (side). We're always saying: Protect our culture, protect our language. This is where I think they're caught. Not enough pressure is put on the governments. This is why we're frustrated."

Transportation assistance was one of the main services the CTA was supposed to provide when it was originally set up. But the CTA hasn't been able to help trappers in this area because of the lack of money.

Money for transportation now comes from the so-called "mitigating fund" created under the 1986 James Bay Eeyou Agreement. The fund, which has \$30 million left, was supposed to help Crees live with the effects of hydro-development.

In 2001, whatever is left of the mitigating fund is supposed to go to the communities or an economic fund. Gilpin said money has to be left over so trappers can get help with transportation. He is also asking chiefs to set aside a guaranteed amount of money to pay for CTA executive salaries.

by Alex Roslin

4TH ANNUAL ESSAY CONTEST: AN OPEN INVITATION

This year's 4th annual Cree Nation Essay Contest will be the biggest so far.

This year, *The Nation* and Cree School Board are teaming up with the Cree Nation Youth Council to organize the contest. The Grand Prize will be trips for our winners to Waitangi, New Zealand to attend the World Indigenous Youth Conference. We are also offering at least \$2,000 in cash prizes.

Everyone is encouraged to participate, and we especially ask teachers and parents to help out in any way they can. Essays are welcome in Cree, English or French. We especially want people to practice their syllabics by sending us essays in Cree. The topic of essays is left open to you, with suggestions in the ad (see page 13).

The contest is open to any Cree from Iiyuuuschii. Crees ages 13 and up are eligible for the Grand Prize. Looking forward to reading those entries.

DEADLINE (revised): Dec. 8, 1997. Our fax: (514) 278-9914. Or when the postal strike ends, mail it to:

Essay Contest, c/o *The Nation*
5505 Blvd. St. Laurent, #4203B
Montreal (Quebec) H2T 1S6

CHIEF BILLY DIAMOND, PhD

Chief Billy Diamond was awarded an honorary doctor of laws degree by Carleton University at the institution's 109th convocation on Nov. 16.

The honorary doctorate is added to the long list of Billy Diamond's other accomplishments.

Named a Chevalier of the Ordre Nationale du Quebec in 1985, he was honoured with an Aboriginal Achievement Award in the field of business and commerce last winter.

He is a member of the board of directors of the Canadian Council on Native Business and of the Bank of Montreal's advisory group.

Diamond was born on a trapline near Waskaganish on May 17, 1949. First elected as chief of Waskaganish in 1970 at the age of 21, he is a founding member of the Grand Council of the Crees and was instrumental in negotiating the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement, Canada's first modern treaty.



Wachiya! Welcome! Bienvenue!

On behalf of all the citizens of Rouyn-Noranda and myself, I wish a warm welcome to all the athletes, family members and supporters of the Cree National Tournament in our beautiful city from December 11th to 14th, 1997.

Most of you will discover Rouyn-Noranda, an attractive city and regional capital of Abitibi-Témiscamingue. Our town is the most important commercial and industrial center in the area.

We are honored to greet your prestigious event. Rest assured that your community will always be welcomed in Rouyn-Noranda.

Wachiya! Enjoy your stay!

Pierre Grandmaître
Mayor

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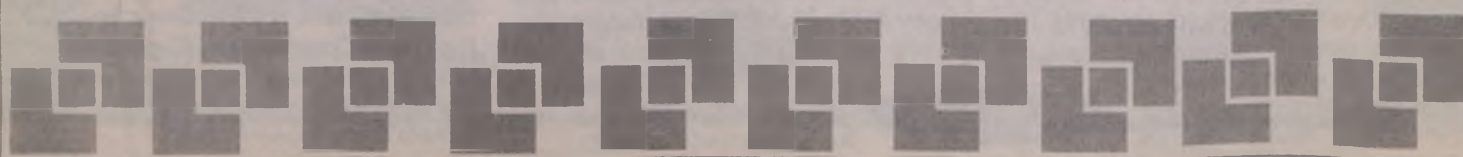
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The Good Book

PLAYER, NUMBER, POSITION	GP	G	A	Pts.
Matoush, Jerry 19, LW	14	13	11	24
Sam, Matthew 15, RW	13	12	10	22
Neeposh, David 17, LW	11	6	6	12
Swallow, Stanley, 14, RW	12	3	7	10
Cooper, Naaman, 3, C	12	6	3	9
Swallow, Christopher, 6, D	13	4	4	8
Metabie, Andy, 12, C	13	1	6	7
Lameboy, Roger, 10, LW	10	3	3	6
Coonishish, Jordan, 18, D	14	1	5	6
Blackned, Murray, 2, LW	14	3	2	5
Gunner, Abednego, 4, D	12	1	3	4
Bobbish, Wayne, 9, D	12	3	1	4
Stecapio, Romeo, 7, LW	11	1	2	3
Stewart, Ian, 13, RW	13	2	0	2
Neeposh, Clayton, 8, RW	9	1	1	2
Neeposh, Tommy, 11, D	11	1	0	1
Blacksmith, Emmanuel, 5, D	14	1	0	1
Georgekish, Justin, 16, C	1	0	0	0

Games played:	14	Period 1	2	3	Total
WE SCORED:		18	24	18	60
THEY SCORED:		20	17	23	60

(All scores effective Nov. 17, 1997)

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books

Not only because they've banned and set fire to reams upon reams of great literature that contain less sex, violence, incest, rape, murder, mayhem, war, voyeurism, exhibitionism, jealousy, adventure, poetry and rock 'n' roll than this. But shocked that its authors never won the Nobel Prize for Literature.

The two main characters, God and Satan (Mr. God and Mr. Satan to us), who just might be one and the same, childishy gamble with the lives of Job and his family, destroying Job and raising him up again. God, the good character, is capable of turning evil when it suits his purpose. In I Samuel, chapter 18, it is written, "And it came to pass on the morrow, that the evil spirit from God came upon Saul..."

The best lines are, of course, reserved for Satan. He promises Jesus, the self-proclaimed God Jr., "All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomever I will give it, If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine."

Wise Jesus, of course, tells him to bugger off. He knows Satan will one day work for Hydro-Quebec, making promises and renegeing on them. ("And I will make the rivers dry and sell the land into the hand of the wicked: and I will make the land waste, and all that is therein, by the hand of strangers": Ezekiel) Read this anthology of some of the greatest stories, poems, love letters ever written.

A sampling: "Thy breasts are like two young
roes that are twins." "How fair and how pleasant
art thou, O love, for delights!" "Let us get up
early to the vineyards, let us see if the vines
flourish, whether the tender grapes appear, and
the pomegranates bud forth: There I will make
thee my loves." "I sat down under his shadow
with great delight, and his fruit was sweet to my
taste."

HOLY BIBLE: IN THE KING JAMES VERSION
BY MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE, JOHN, ETC.
THOMAS NELSON PUBLISHERS, NYC, 1984

This week's book column was brought to us by... A Cree who insisted on anonymity.

"The Status Quo is unacceptable"

An interview with Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come

By William Nicholls

It's been a while since The Nation sat down and talked to the most powerful leader in the Cree world. Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come was, as always, candid and open. His frank answers sometimes surprised me. It is no wonder that some people from the Assembly of First Nations asked when the Crees would finally persuade Grand Chief Coon Come to run for National Grand Chief.

The Nation: It's been a while since we last did this. How have you been doing?

Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come: I'm doing fine. My health is good and sense of humor is fine. Everything's good. Family's doing really great.

One of the things we've heard about is Waskaganish's request for its share of the GCCQ/CRA budget. What is your opinion of this?

Well, it's nothing new where a community requests its share of the CRA budget. That is done every year. However, one has to look at the Cree national issues versus the community issues versus what I call the peoples issues. The Cree national issues are the majority part of our budget. It deals with protecting and advancing our Aboriginal rights, our treaty rights, our court cases, whether it be the Coon Come case or joint litigation of the Cree School Board and Grand Council against the provincial government's unilateral attempt to set the guidelines for funding of the school board. Whether we deal with the federal or provincial governments in establishing tables, at the end of the day it is the communities that will benefit. The majority of the Grand Council/CRA's funds are allocated for the national interest of the Cree Nation.

The request by Waskaganish is nothing new. When you look at it in a context, yes, GCCQ/CRA mandates stem from the respective communities, but on the other hand each community provides, administers, manages and coordinates its own projects. Any community that is under pressure because of its own mismanagement or misappropriation of funds eventually requests funds from the regional entities, in this case the CRA. I think if one were to look deeper into the issues, one would find out that most bands have budgetary problems. I don't think this is the fault of the regional entity. Because of the way they spend their funds it puts pressure on them. The only place they can look for funds is the regional entities. I think that it's bad management and I feel that there's no coordination on that.

However, the chiefs and their community representatives sit on the Council/Board (of the GCCQ), which approves the budget. So it is strange having a request coming from a community when their chiefs sit on the Board because they were sitting there when we approved the budget. They know the budgets and the way the funds are allocated for a given fiscal year. So to deal with the request from Waskaganish, we'll have to look at it in the fiscal year of 1997-98.

You have to assess it. Just because Waskaganish wants that par-

Presently as far as we know there are no future projects being announced in the Cree territory... The Crees' position is clear. The Crees' position is that diversion projects are unacceptable.

ticular program or service transferred to them, it doesn't mean another community wants that. The smaller communities need more support services than the larger communities. I think it's a lot cheaper to have a regional coordinating committee to provide a service than allocating nine different budgetary items for each community. You increase your budget or you can cut costs by centralizing it. This is what we are trying to do. There may be room to decentralize some of the services and programs, but that's a discussion that has to take place between the nine Cree communities. If Waskaganish wants it, it doesn't mean we can ignore the fact that the other communities need the services.

It's always the easiest thing to do (criticizing the CRA). Because we have eliminated the Department of Indian Affairs to a certain extent, the chiefs, council and administration have to blame someone. Well then, who do they blame? They blame their own entities for not delivering certain programs and services. But when you look at it, we have over 250 employees under the Cree/Naskapi Act for all the nine communities. Their budget is about \$35 million. Certainly they can deliver programs and services to their people rather than just criticizing the number of people or the budget we have at the GCCQ/CRA. So you have to weigh that. They employ far more people than we employ at the GCCQ/CRA.

Let's look at another topic. From this year's AGA there was a resolution set up to fight river development projects for hydro power. Do you see this as the same fight as before? Will it be fought in the same way, a public-relations battle?

At the moment, we have established a table with Hydro-Quebec, what we call the Eeyou-Hydro Quebec task force. We are certainly challenging Hydro-Quebec on its past obligations to the Crees under the JBNQA and complimentary agreements. Certainly there are outstanding issues that need to be dealt with. Eastmain's water problem; the social, cultural impacts that HQ had on the Crees. It has to be dealt with. The intent of the task force is not to deal with future projects. It is in essence saying, no, we challenged the federal and provincial governments to fulfill their obligations under the agreements. We are doing the same with HQ. We're taking them to task. Nothing prevents us from taking them to task regarding their unfulfilled obligations.



As for future projects, right now everything is on hold. There are no projects that are being announced per se. There's no Great Whale. There are talks of the possibility of diverting the Caniapiscau and building two dams, but those are projects that are still in the air, as NBR is still just in the air. But certainly Hydro-Quebec has to be monitored in regards to contracts and what they are seeking to sell in the United States in selling more energy to the public utilities. So there has to be some kind of monitoring system and I can appreciate the concern that we Crees have if they sell more energy. Are they going to build more dams in our area? That's what we are monitoring at the moment.

But presently as far as we know there are no future projects being announced in the Cree territory. There are other projects but none in our territory for the moment. The Crees' position is clear. The Crees' position is that diversion projects are unacceptable. We want to look at alternatives to any projects that are announced. We would certainly want a public debate on an energy policy. We would want it to look at more than the economics of projects. It should examine the social, environmental and culture impacts. We are still concerned about the environmental audit to be done on the past impacts. These would certainly be raised with Hydro-Quebec.

As to the initiatives we will take, I think each case will be different because of its unique nature. We will use judicial process, no doubt. As to the campaign itself, it will depend on what is announced. Certainly you have to have some sort of public awareness campaign as to what's happening. You have to keep your

supporters informed of some of the projects coming down the pipeline. You have to maintain your network. But all this will depend on what and when these are announced also.

Hydro-Quebec is saying that Great Whale's recent resolution only applies to the old proposed projects, not the new ones. What do you think about the resolution as you see it?

Well, maybe someone should remind them that in 1989, we adopted a resolution opposing all future projects. That was a general assembly resolution and every year since then we've had a resolution that opposed future projects or projects different from those defined under the 1975 and complimentary agreements. But that's their interpretation. The community dealt with a specific project and rightly so. It dealt with Great Whale, there was a referendum and that's their position and it's very clear. It's going to happen in their lands. Certainly back in '89 when Great Whale was on the table, it was the Crees' position that the community that is going to be affected would be taking the lead and all the Cree Nation would stand behind them.

Will this continue to be the position if a new Great Whale project is announced?

The community made that decision. It is very clear this is their position and I think the Cree Nation has stated its position and nothing has changed.

What do you see as the biggest challenge for the Crees so far?

The biggest challenge for the Crees will be whether we can work together or not. There'll be so much pressure if the First Nations communities are not careful in managing the funds that they receive. That will put pressure on all entities. We'll end up fighting among ourselves over disbursement of certain funds that could go to particular communities because of their particular situation. So we might end fighting rather than using that energy and fighting the federal or provincial governments or Crown corporations that come into our territories and lands. We might become occupied with our own little issues. We miss the bullet's eyes. Who is trying to destroy this land? Who is trying to dispossess the Crees? Who is taking away or preventing us from what we thought we got? Who is it that promised these things? Why are we using Cree money to fulfill Canadian or Quebec obligations? That takes the onus off the governments. That's unacceptable. I see the challenge will be whether we can work together. We need to focus on where we want to go. If it is that we want to set up, as I understand from the Eeyou Astchee Commission, our own national government, then let's work towards that. Let's set up our own institutions and get more elected representatives that represent the Crees. Let's focus our energies on that while at the same time trying to make certain amendments and changes as well as making a new relationship with the province and Canada. Because the status quo is unacceptable. Trying to identify what that relationship will be with the government, the powers that be. The challenge will be to separate what are Cree Nation issues and what are community issues. What are the people's issues. And that's going to be the challenge. If we can get over that hurdle and if we ever get organized we are going to be dangerous.

The second half of our interview with the Grand Chief will appear in our next issue. Upcoming topics include forestry, negotiations, and Cree language and culture.



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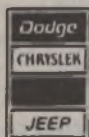
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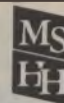
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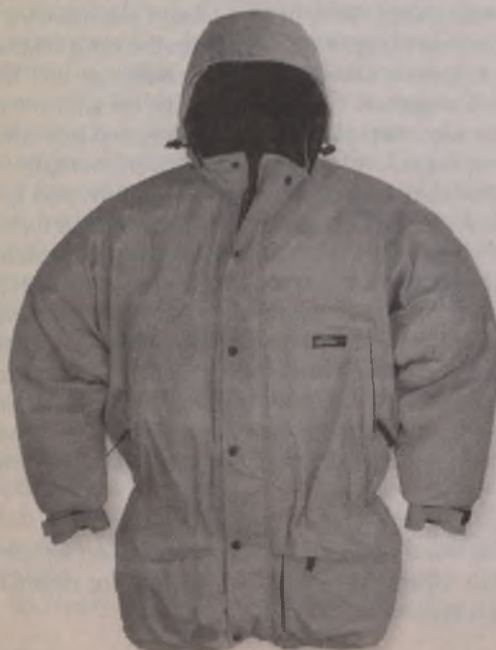
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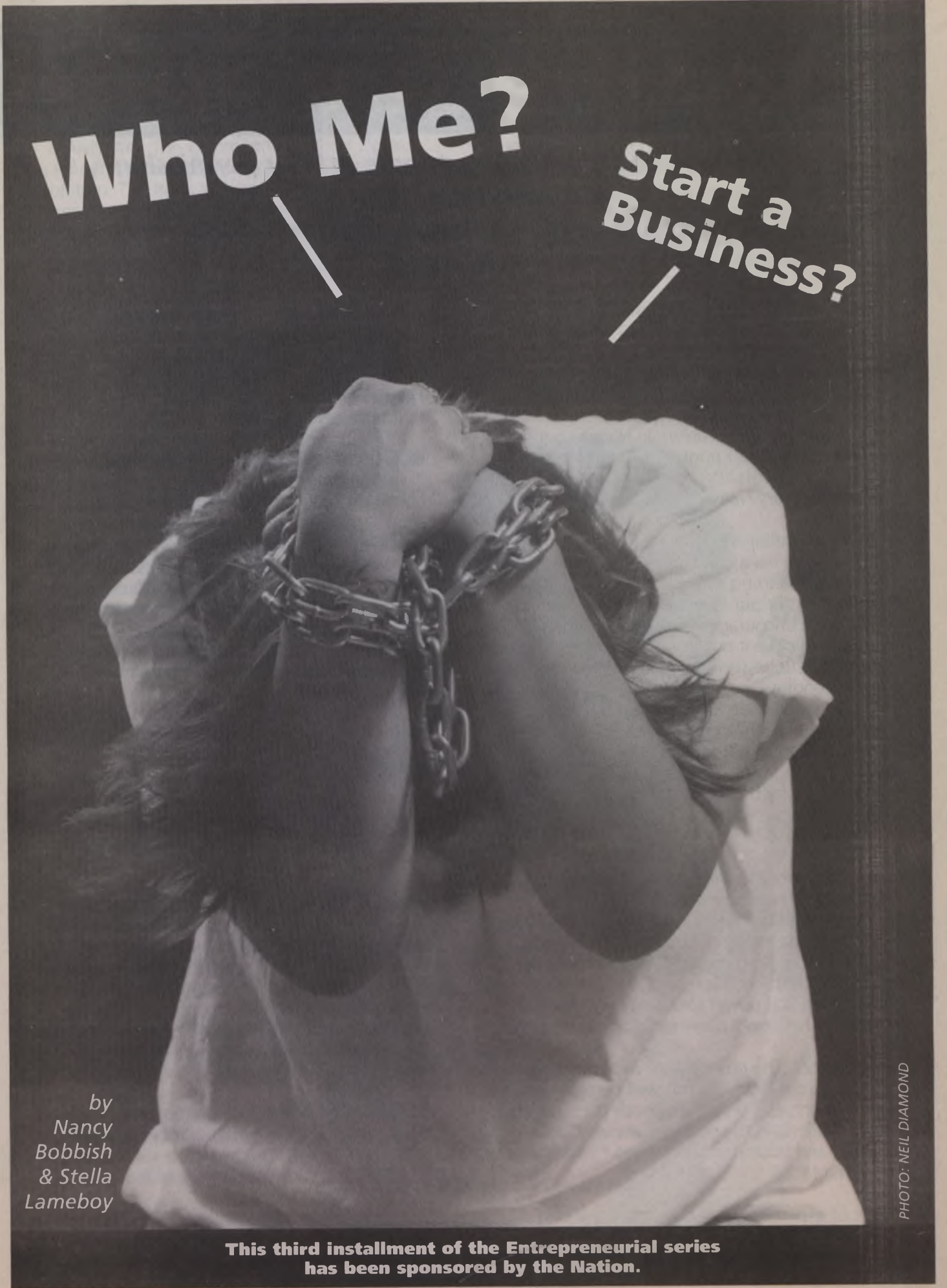
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**This third installment of the Entrepreneurial series
has been sponsored by the Nation.**

Blocking the Spirit

"We have to stop making people ask for permission for everything they do.

You have to give entrepreneurs freedom."

— R. Kungl

Why are there not more businesses in the Cree communities?

To begin to answer this question we interviewed Mr. Rolf Kungl, a consultant with the Haida Kloo training services, who has trained Native entrepreneurs across Canada.

"The number one problem in Native communities is politics," said Kungl. "Red tape, no response. No support. It's the same problems repeated in every Native community in the country."

There are definitely people out there in Creeland who have great ideas and are genuinely interested in starting a business. Why is it so difficult then for our Cree system to provide support and encouragement to prospecting entrepreneurs? Is it not true that in order for our Cree Nation to be strong, we must develop a strong economy?

Kungl believes the following are blocks to business spirit in the communities. He says he does not mean to putdown any person, group or agency, but he wants people to understand and think about why there aren't more businesses in Cree territory.

BLOCK #1: You have to have permission to start a business (Band resolution is required). "Not even some of the deepest communist countries do that," says Kungl. "Band resolutions block the opportunity of businesses happening. It's another bureaucratic hurdle. It dampens the spirit. What if the entrepreneur is not in favour with the political power structure? His chances are shot to hell. He'll never get past square one."

BLOCK #2: The economic development agencies and corporations are not well perceived in the communities. "It's not to knock them. Many people working in the agencies are very well-meaning and frustrated themselves," says Kungl. "It's just a fact."

- Lack of expertise and experience in helping people;
- Lack of communication;

- The officers have too many bureaucratic tasks and can't spend enough time helping people;
- People fear their ideas will be stolen. "I've not only heard about it," says Kungl. "I've seen it. They block someone else, and then they start that business themselves."

BLOCK #3: The system is slow to respond.

Last summer, Kungl was hired by Eeyou Economic Group to give an "Entrepreneur workshop" to Crees who were seriously thinking about starting a business. According to Kungl, the workshop was a success. There were plenty of folks ready to start a business. These people also had great ideas. In all, 156 people registered. By the end of the workshop, 105 people put together business proposals and sent them to their respective bands or local economic development agencies.

- "Do you know how many of the 105 people received a response?" asked Kungl. "Five."

BLOCK #4: Money: Tough stuff to get ahold of. It is very difficult for Native businesses to borrow money because people do not own the land they live on and banks cannot seize goods from a reserve.

BLOCK #5: Negativity towards business is very strong in the communities. Business people are seen as taking advantage, ripping people off. Profit is a dirty word. "It's the old Hudson's Bay mentality," says Kungl, adding that Natives are even harder on their own people. "When my partner (who is Native) goes to communities, he is not as well perceived as I am (because I'm white)."

BLOCK #6: People give up too easily. Perhaps because there are not enough role models.

BLOCK #7: Lack of commercial space.

"I've worked in 240 Native communities across the country, and these blocks are repeated straight across the board anywhere in Canada," says Kungl.

Raising the Spirit

SOLUTION #1:

MANIWAKI. This community north of Ottawa no longer requires its entrepreneurs to get a band resolution. The Band still regulates certain businesses, like transport, communications, anything that is potentially harmful to the community. But any standard business can get a licence.

"People can start 20 restaurants if they want," says Kungl. "You have to give entrepreneurs freedom. People aren't even given the chance to fail. If you fail, you learn, and you get stronger. Business is not about being perfect. It's about learning from your mistakes."

SOLUTION #2:

Bands usually open a business because the community needs it, and no one else is doing it. But they should find entrepreneurs to start or take over these businesses.

"In 99.9% of the cases," says Kungl. "Band-owned, bureaucratically-run, politically-driven businesses don't make it. They eventually lose tremendous amounts of money because it is not their own money they are spending. The heads usually have to wear other hats, and can't devote enough time to the business."

SOLUTION #3:

Bands and development agencies can do the best work by making it easier for other people to start a business. By creating affordable commercial space, by training people, offering workshops and other support for prospective entrepreneurs.

SOLUTION #5: JUST DO IT!

Go ahead and start your business with what you already have. Yes it is true that you need band resolutions, even if you are not asking for money. But the problem is that it can take forever! There is also the problem of location, people are busy and the list goes on. Just get started and do not get caught in the red-tape of politics. As you go along, you can work on the blocks.

We ask you the readers, potential business people and the people running the political and bureaucratic systems to send us possible solutions to the above mentioned blocks. What can we do as a community, to make the road easy for people to start a business? Let us be realistic and not idealistic.

We are requesting constructive criticism: remember, most people in the system are trying their best and they are frustrated too. Not put-downs, but what is really going on and how we can approach an obstacle and work to overcome it.



*it's
time,
baby...*

Congratulations

to Chief Billy Diamond



A young Billy Diamond (centre) posing with Billy Stephen, Chief Max Gros Louis, Malcolm Diamond and an unidentified Elder in the early days

On receiving his Honorary Doctorate of Law from Carleton University on Sunday, November 16th, 1997 in Ottawa.

As Grand Chief, Billy Diamond guided the Cree Nation through the very difficult years leading up to the signing of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement.

He continued, after the signing, to lead the way in the period of development and implementation of the Cree-Naskapi Act.

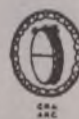
He is a leader we can all be proud of.



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Between Friends

Here are the last four of the Seven Philosophies for a Native American Man, continued from last issue. -Deantha

Fourth Philosophy: To the Community

The Indian community provides many things for the family. The most important is the sense of belonging; that is, to belong to "the people," and to have a place to go. Our Indian communities need to be restored to health so future generations will be guaranteed a place to go for culture, language and Indian socializing. In the community, the honour of one is the honour of all and the pain of one is the pain of all. I will work to strengthen recovery in all parts of my community. As an Indian man,

I will give back to my community by donating my time and talents when I am able.

I will cultivate friendships with other Indian men for mutual support and strength.

I will consider the effects of our decisions on behalf of the next seven generations; in this way, our children and grandchildren will inherit healthy communities.

I will care about those in my community so that the mind changers, alcohol and drugs, will vanish, and our communities will forever be free of violence.

If each of us can do all these things, then others will follow; ours will be a proud community.

Fifth Philosophy: To the Earth

Our Mother Earth is the source of all life, whether it be the plants, the two-legged, four-legged, winged ones or human beings. The Mother Earth is the greatest Teacher, if we listen, observe and respect her. When we live in harmony with the Mother Earth, she will recy-

cle the things we consume and make them available to our children and to their children. As an Indian man, I must teach my children how to care for the Earth so it is there for the future generations. So from now on,

I realize the Earth is our Mother. I will treat her with honour and respect.

I will honour the interconnectedness of all things and all forms of life.

I will realize the Earth does not belong to us, but that we belong to the Earth.

The natural law is the ultimate authority upon the lands and water. I will learn the knowledge and wisdom of the natural laws. I will pass this knowledge on to my children.

The Mother Earth is a living entity that maintains life. I will speak out in a good way whenever I see someone abusing the Earth. Just as I would protect my own mother, so will I protect the Earth. I will ensure that the land, water, and air will be intact for my children and for my children's children - the unborn.

Sixth Philosophy: To the Creator

As an Indian man, I realize we make no gains without the Great Spirit being in our lives. Neither, I, nor anything I attempt to do, will work without our Creator. Being Indian and being spiritual has the same meaning. Spirituality is our gift from the Great One. This day, I vow to walk the Red Road.

As an Indian man, I will return to the traditional and spiritual values which have guided my ancestors for the past generations.

I will look with new eyes on the powers of our ceremonies and religious ways, for they are important to the very survival of our people.

We have survived and are going to grow and flourish spiritually. We will fulfill our teachings

and the purpose that the Creator has given us with dignity.

Each day, I will pray and ask for guidance. I will commit to walk the Red Road, or whatever the spiritual way is called in my own culture.

If I am Christian, I will be a good one. If I am traditional, I will walk this road with dedication.

If each of us can do these things then others will follow. From this day forward, I will reserve time and energy for spirituality, seeking to know the Creator's will.

Seventh Philosophy: To Myself

I will think about what kind of person I want to be when I am an Elder. I will start developing myself now to be this person.

I will walk with the Great Spirit and the grandfathers at my side. I will develop myself to remain positive. I will develop a good mind.

I will examine myself daily to see what I did good and what I need to improve. I will examine my strengths and weaknesses, then I will ask the Creator to guide me. I will develop a good mind.

Each day, I will listen for the Creator's voice in the wind. I will watch nature and ask to be shown a lesson which will occur on my path.

I will seek out the guiding principles which guided my ancestors. I will walk in dignity, honour and humility, conducting myself as a warrior.

I will seek the guidance of the Elders so that I may maintain the knowledge of culture, ceremonies and songs, and so that I may pass these on to the future generations.

I choose to do all these things myself, because no one else can do them for me.

I know I CANNOT GIVE AWAY WHAT I DON'T HAVE, so I will need to learn to walk the talk.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb 18) Okay. You're okay. Don't worry about a thing. Okay? You're fine. So strut your stuff. Okay? As for your love life...it's a big, swollen boil on your butt! Saturn is in the house of Pluto, whose aunt is Uranus. So this might help. So keep your fingers dry.

Pisces (Feb 19-March 20) Okay. You're not okay! Okay. Oh nonononononono! You're just a drag. A big, long, deep drag. That is not okay. You're just a roller coaster ride at full speed. Out of control and out of this world. How bizarre. It is not comfortable at all.

Aries (March 21-April 19) Right on. Guilt is your middle name. Let's face it you are guilty. One big bag of guilt spewing puke. You are ripping people apart with this wonderful gift of yours. It is a gift that should not be exploited. Get back to your senses and drop the guilt trips you love so much.

Taurus (April 20-May 19) Mouth watering, smooth tasting, rich piece of chocolate you are this month. We just want to eat you up! Gotta have it. This is the word around you. Life is a box of chocolates, you'll never know what you're gonna get. Take the best for yourself before it's too late.

Gemini (May 20-June 21) Santa expects you to be naughty, not nice during the holidays. Schedule a soothing massage with a cute snow

The Twilight Zone

Your Horoscope

By Thelma & Louise

bunny! No one knows what is gonna hit whenever you are around. What ever it is, it is good. This must be just like living in paradise. What a blast you are!

Cancer (June 22-July 22) You are a snowflake, blowing in the wind. The answer my friend is blowing in the wind. No snowflakes are alike. There is no one quite like you. You just might land on the sweetest tongue you have ever known. Keep drifting down to earth, my dear snowflake.

Leo (July 23-Aug 23) You're down right insensitive. Say sorry with brownies. You will need them. What happened? You're off. You're way off the line. It's good for nothing. Where the hell did you go? Here you go! Take that ashtray full of cigarettes that you are, and flush it down the bowl!

Virgo (Aug 24-Sept 22) Something happens and you're head over heels. Your sex appeal is sky high. God, it's so obvious. That certain people are drawn to you like crazy glue. You are the ultimate magnet. Everyone is stuck on you

babe. But don't get stuck on yourself because of all this.

Libra (Sept 23-Oct 22) Ex-lovers keep coming back to you. Your black book is thicker than the Holy Bible honey. What's happenin'? Give it up. Way up in the clouds. You're artistic Venus side makes your gift wrapping so creative. Just don't get tied up in knots when alone, wait for company.

Scorpio (Oct 23-Nov 21) You are the pot of gold at the end of a rainbow. Filled with every treasure imaginable, which is appropriate because you are an imaginative beast, with nice definitions and contours that fit like a glove. A tight latex glove. Hopefully with some lubricant.

Sagittarius (Nov 22-Dec 22) When sending out those gifts, make sure to hotly lick the stamp with zeal! Your laugh just kills everyone. Stop making those annoying noises. Bodily functions should be taken care of in private. Stay away from smooth talkers. If they laugh don't kill 'em, your breath will!

Capricorn (Dec. 23-Jan. 19) We got a really sappy one for you this month, since we are in a good mood. All we are saying is keep your best interests at heart. Start thinking about yourself. Take care, we love ya. The world loves ya and all the rest of that kind of crap. By the way, relax. Stay cool!



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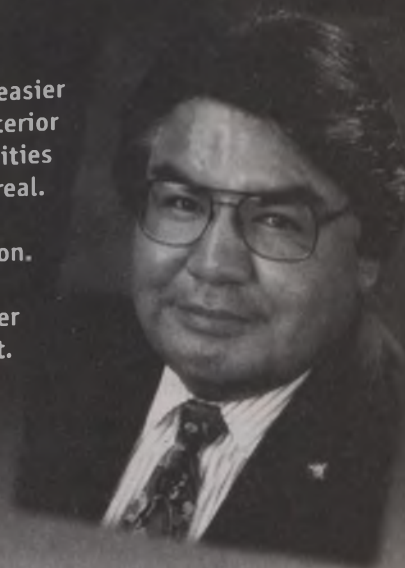
| Departure | Arrive | Arrive | Arrive |
|-------------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Montreal 8:50 am | Chibougamau 10:00 am | La Grande 11:35 am | Chisasibi 12:20 pm |
| Chisasibi 1:40 pm | La Grande 2:00 pm | Chibougamau 3:35 pm | Montreal 5:15 pm |

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A landslide, a meteorite or...

By Dr. Truth

One summer night in late June of this year, some say, it might have been a meteorite or some kind of light falling from the sky. The next day, what may have appeared as a landslide on the shore of the Hudson Bay, approximately three to four kilometres north of Whapmagoostui or Kuujjuarapik, had raised many questions by the nearby Cree occupants of camps.

Of course, the main question was: Is it really a landslide or the work of a meteorite digging its way through a half-kilometre square hole on the shore of the bay, leaving the print of an ugly, muddy and messy round bay, filled with trees and branches, some floating on the horizon?

Also one other question was: Why is there mud and sea shells covering some place, way up to the tip of some trees?

The next day after this phenomenon had occurred, some friends were riding on the north trail about 15 minutes away from the said disaster when suddenly out of nowhere appeared two huge, furry white dogs. Very surprised but most of all frightened at the thought that these could be wolves, they both froze on their seat and remained where they were until the four-legged animals approached them and proved they meant no harm by wagging their tails.

As strange as it may seem, these two dogs were as clean as falling snow and had no master with them. One of the dogs had around its neck the trace of a collar, showing only a pinkish trace as

THE DOCTOR IS IN

if it had lost the collar he'd been wearing. Both of the dogs appeared very well fed, large and strongly built. Also, they both seemed very well trained (sort of elite dogs). Because these two companions didn't seem to want to delay their trip (heading south), my friends had time to notice a trace of blood coming from a wound under one of the dogs' paws. That wound as well as the way these dogs were breathing could only indicate that they had been running since quite a long distance and that is from the north side where there are no communities other than Emuriak (app. 120 km. n.)

After a brief goodbye, the two furry friends continued their way toward the south as if someone or something was controlling them from a distance. From the top of the hill where my friends were stationed, they could still see the two dogs galloping away towards the shore.

On their way back, about 20 minutes later, my friends recall they once again saw the two dogs freshening up in a small pond; still no master around. As bizarre as it may seem, these two dogs that were assumed to be Siberian Huskies never made it to the community; they were not known to anyone...

All of this is to say that was it just a coincidence with the said to be meteorite, landslide or what else? Could it also be that someone or some organizations out there are in search of some important findings such as minerals? Or undergoing some kind of land studies? Perhaps trying to find out about the solidity of the soil, if it could hold on to a mega-dam project planned to be under way in the next coming months?

Isn't blasting a part of the land up north easier than spending months, sometimes years, digging in order to find out about the defrosting of the permafrost layer which has begun to unfreeze due to the green house effects?

P.S. Thank you for printing the story about Buckley G. He's been receiving a few letters already. He's very happy. Please keep on writing to him. He takes a little time to write back but be patient. He'll write back... Thank you. Remember about "loneliness." Buckley G. Be My Friend Club: Whapmagoostui, Hudson Bay, J0M 1G0.

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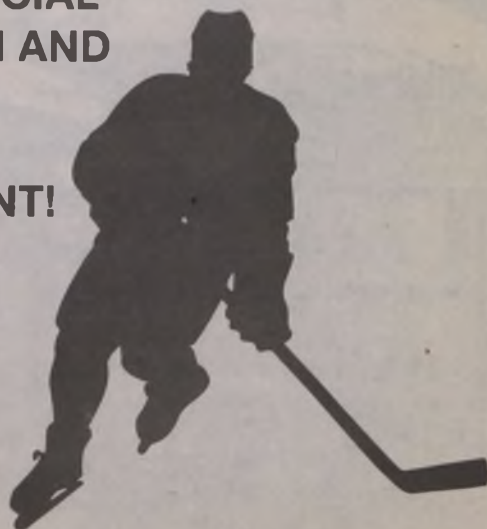
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ALLIES ONCE AGAIN

By William Nicholls



Inside Hydro-Quebec

The weekend of November 14 to 17 saw activists from the United States and Canada arrive in Montreal to gear up for another battle against mega-corp Hydro-Quebec. It was seen as a chance to include everyone south and north of the U.S.-Canada border for activists to heal the wounds between the two. Quebec activists were upset when in the first fight for Great Whale, Greenpeace and others brought a full-page ad in *The New York Times* denouncing Hydro-Quebec.

The meeting was also seen as a chance to come up with a defining statement that all environmental parties could agree upon. There were more than the usual people you have seen in the past gathering to talk. Some participants had surprising affiliations.

A member of the Parti Quebecois was on hand. President Gilles Lavoie, of the PQ's Comité national sur l'écologie et l'environnement, had a rather spirited discussion with another Quebecer, possibly a federalist, talking about sovereignty and referendums.

And let us not forget the two unannounced HQ external communications workers. When it was discovered that they were in the conference, people reacted as though there were spies discovered in our midst. Someone to focus on. Albeit, they not very good at undercover work, if that was what it was, as their presence was announced to one and all at the final strategy and planning session. Tooker Goomberg, M.C., pointed them out to the visible horror of some activists.

The Hydro-Quebec employees seemed nervous when I took their pictures. I hastened to reassure our "guests," explaining I was with *The Nation* and how much I would appreciate an interview with them. Though they initially agreed, I received a phone call from Steve Flanagan, Hydro-Quebec spokesman, who said they weren't available to comment.

Flanagan also said Hydro-Quebec would not be sharing any internal analysis of the conference that the two lads may give to their bosses. I was supposed to interview Flanagan later but could only his voice mail. Fortunately, I managed to get hold of another Hydro-Quebec spokesperson, Guy Litalien, but he wasn't even sure that HQ had anyone at the conference.

Litalien, though, hastened to assure me that the last thing Hydro-Quebec is looking for is a public-relations battle. "It has been mentioned many times what we are looking for in terms of projects. They must be economically profitable, it must be in harmony with the environment and it must be socially acceptable to the commu-



"I'd like a receipt, please"- The gifts were checked by security to see if they posed a threat.

nity. These are the three conditions and this is why it is important to talk to the community. The last condition is the most important," said Litalien.

Given the differing conditions and projects throughout the province, Litalien said it would be difficult to say what procedures a community would follow to say yes or no to a given project. It depends on the conditions of the analysis and discussions a community and Hydro-Quebec develop, he said.

When Great Whale was brought up as a specific case, where the community of Whapmagoostui already had a referendum, band resolution and Grand Council resolution, Litalien said he could not comment on the political situation, as he wasn't a politician.

He said Hydro-Quebec would have to look at the feasibility and only then would they meet with the community to discuss the options.

Litalien did not answer whether or not activists would be invited to internal strategy meetings in HQ, but did say the environment is a number-one priority for the utility. He said it is given the same consideration as the engineering plans.

Litalien didn't know if HQ would be sending people unannounced to meetings and conferences held by activists, but said HQ would be pleased to attend any they were invited to to talk about environment or electricity. "Discussions are one of the main things in the energy field. I think it's important," he said.

Cont'd on page 49

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Nation Index

- Number of *Nation* employees in 1993: 6
- Number of *Nation* employees in 1997: 15
- Average time for Chisasibi to run out of *The Nation*: 4 hours
- Average time for Wemindji to run out: 2 days
- Average number of phone calls to *The Nation* office in one day: 150
- Number of awards *The Nation* has received: 12
- Number of times *The Nation* office has been robbed: 2
- Number of times *The Nation* office has moved: 3
- Wage of *Nation* staff: \$75 per day (everyone makes the same)
- Wage for top Cree negotiators: \$350 per day + \$75 expenses
- Amount of government assistance used to start up *The Nation*: 0
- Number of months *Nation* staff went without salary at the beginning: 10
- Number of times *The Nation* was threatened verbally with a lawsuit: 6
- Number of times *The Nation* actually went to court: 0
- Number of times a chief has challenged *Nation* writers to a fistfight: 2
- Estimated number of coffees required to produce one issue: 100
- Average age of *Nation* employees: 31.3
- Ratio of Natives to non-Natives: 8:7
- Ratio of females to males: 9:6
- Number of inter-office affairs at *The Nation* office: 7
- Total number of pages in all *Nations* ever printed: 18,000,000
- Length of newprint used to produce all the copies of *The Nation*:
2,464,540 feet (approximate distance between Paradise Lodge and Whapmagoostui)
- Number of out-of-country subscribers: 55
- Farthest distance *The Nation* has travelled to a subscriber: 7,702 air miles (Tokyo, Japan)
- Number of ads the federal government has purchased in *The Nation*: 60
- Number of ads from the Quebec government: 6
- Per cent of letters sent to *The Nation* in 1994 that were anonymous: 90%
- Per cent of letters sent in 1997 that were anonymous: 40%
- Estimated total number of classifieds: 4,000
- Total number of *Rez Notes*: 50
- Number of issues with *Rez Notes* missing since it started: 5
- Ratio of Mac to PC computers at *The Nation* office: 1:3
- Number of times the Pope has appeared on the cover: 1
- Number of times Elders have appeared on the cover: 19
- Number of times children have appeared on the cover: 19
- Number of times Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come has appeared on the cover: 5
- Number of times a *Nation* staff member ran for Grand Chief: 1
- Number of times Freddy Jolly has appeared on the cover: 2
- Number of full color covers: 14 (including this one)
- Number of appearances by chef Jean Cuisine (or Jean Poulet): 4
- Number of appearances by Erland S. Campbell: 14
- Total number of polls *The Nation* has conducted: 4
- Number of times *The Nation* or staff made the news (TV, radio or print): 56

Editor's cuteness in question
to The Nation:

FINGER TAKEN IN KAHNAWAKE HIT

TOO ISSUE

WHERE'S HYDRO WH

JAMES BAY, WE HAVE A PROBLEM

COON COME SLAMS
HYDROGEN PLAN

"I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING AGAINST THE GREAT
WHALE PEOPLE". ROBERT KANATEWAT

SCANDAL EMBROILS
HYDRO-QUEBEC

MAN DEAD
IN BIZARRE
INCIDENT

LAND

Ink Rocks

WELCOME TO THE NATION

SEPARATION DEEMED ILLEGAL

IS O

CTIONAR

The following pages contain memories from nations past. Each issue was a joy to put out. Hopefully you also have enjoyed the work that we produced and will continue to produce. This is our hundredth issue, one hundred more to come...!!! - Ernie.

JOE NORTON SLAPPED, MINISTERS
SHOVED IN KAHNAWAKE

WOLF WARNING IN WASWAN
"TODAY THERE'S
NO RUSH"

PARIZEAU SNUBS CHIEFS

EAT BETTER WITH
KLIK LITETM

I would like to say hello to the 2 Waskaganish girls I met in Toronto. (Hope you saw my picture) From "The Lips"

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and call me in the morning

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Memories of Christmas

By Dorothy MacLeod-Nicholls

December 16, 1994 (Vol. 2, No. 2)

I woke up feeling the crisp chilly air around me. My younger sister snuggled in close to draw warmth from my back. I could hear my father chopping kindling on the front porch as it echoed through the cold air. The goose-feathered comforter on our bed kept the coldness out and we burrowed ourselves warm and content.

This was a special morning and one we would remember for years to come. It was Christmas morning and we were "all" home with our parents, grandparents and the people in the village. There were 10 children in the family in which I grew up.

We had stayed behind to witness the summer end and experienced the sorrows of parting as family after family of hunters left the village for their winter hunting grounds. Silhouetted against the sky were the empty tent frames of their summer homes. The forlorn howl of a dog or two who had been left behind expressed the emptiness of the village. We played and explored around the village, missing our playmates but delighted we were home.

It was an unusual Fall for our family. It was the first time in many years we were not leaving the village to go out to school. My father had been busy during the summer with a village full of people. He spent long hours in the store, flying out frequently to replenish his stock. Now he had more time to do enjoyable things with us. My mother was like a child who had been left all her toys for a longer season. We were loved and pampered by both of them and our Grandparents. We relished every moment of it.

We watched the geese fly high overhead as they made their way south. The lake gradually froze over and when it was safe enough, we had a perfect skating rink. The snow came and stayed. We had rabbit stews with huge fluffy dumplings, moose meat with plain and raisin bannock. The thought of fried fish and ducks as only my mother knew how to cook them makes my tastebuds soar. As the weather grew colder, we'd wake up in the morning making puffs of cold air with our warm breath.

First thing each morning, bare feet would hit the cold floor as my brothers would scamper to get dressed. Making their way to the nearest toboggan, they would slide down the hill outside our door. Each one came in shivering cupping their ears to huddle around the wood stove, sometimes arguing about who had reached the bottom of the hill first.

As December approached, we felt the excitement and anticipation of Christmas. Our home became a flurry of excitement and expectations. Our house smelled of cinnamon and ginger. The kitchen table was covered with brown paper as my mother transferred doughnuts from the frying pan to the table. Temptation lay before us and with eager hands we managed to pluck one each before the watchful eyes of my mother and her helpers caught us.

My father and the boys bundled up and headed for the woods to find the perfect tree and to check rabbit snares. The smell of the

fresh needles on the branches filled the living room. The tree stood graced with beautiful sparkling and glittering decorations that shimmered in the light of the Coleman lamp that hung from a hook in the ceiling.

There is a small group of people who stayed year-round in the village. Among them was the Hudson's Bay manager and his family, the Iserhoffs and their families. These were the guests who came to share our Christmas Eve with us. They arrived pounding their feet to shake off the loose snow and proceeded to remove layer upon layer of clothing. They stood around the fire, rubbing their hands together to warm them before seating themselves in the living room. We sang Christmas carols with our parents and wondered why every Christmas couldn't be like this.

Doors in the north are never locked and so throughout the evening, numbers of callers came to stand by the entrance to spend some time with us. My father at the midnight hour made his way to the store and with careful instructions to keep the bedroom door closed, he would return with his booming, "Ho, ho, ho," and make a comment such as, "Are all the good boys and girls fast asleep?"

Our gifts were few but somehow this made them more meaningful and dearer to our memories. My gift that year was a light green, velvet-covered seashell-type container which held a pearl-handled manicure set. I knew my father had bought it on one of his fur-selling trips in Montreal. There were bright-coloured scarves, beautiful embroidered mitts and slippers. Multi-coloured socks, winter hats and woolen mitts. Our stockings were filled with oranges, nuts and candy.

My parents had "open house" on Christmas Day. As each family arrived, the children picked a bag of candy from under the tree. Their parents sat drinking tea and eating doughnuts with my parents in the kitchen. I can still hear the soft laughter and happy voices echoing through my memory.

We think of Christmas as a time of gathering together and the excitement of returning home to families. The thing I like the most about winter at home is the glittering whiteness of the snow against the cool clear blue sky. The softness of the snow beneath my moccasins as I walk along the winter paths.

The delightful squeals of the children as they slide down the hill across the bay in vision of my front window. I relive my memories and build new ones with my sons and grandchildren.

May you have a wonderful Christmas, one you will remember with fond memories and cherished moments. Have a blessed Christmas season and may you find the true meaning of Christmas. The birth of Jesus.

Looking forward to seeing you during the holidays.



Reference (Position Title): Metallurgical Technician

Rez Notes

By Ndiamon™

The first edition of Rez Notes appeared on October 6, 1995 (Vol. 2, No. 21).

Greetings dear mortals. Allow me to welcome you to this page. One that, with your assistance, cooperation and blind obedience, will flourish and live on in our pages, hearts and minds for as long as humanly possible. We all know how all of Creedom loves gossip, rumours and truths even. So I command you to contact "Rez Notes" by letter, fax, phone, ESP, classifieds or by any other means you can dream up c/o The Nation for all of the above and much hilarity will, no doubt, ensue. Bear in mind that the juiciest stories cannot be published in a family magazine such as this but send them in anyway. Without further ado and in alphabetical order (snicker, snicker). ...

May 10, 1996 (Vol. 3, No. 12)

Good, the doors are locked, the curtains drawn and the ice has arrived from room service so the beverages will stay cold. We can begin. We are here at the cozy Capissis Lodge in Ojaj. I have to admit I was a tad nervous coming back after... what is it?... two, three years? Has it been that long? I spent the day here several weeks ago and asked my "boss" if we could lunch at The Lodge. "Do you think we're ready?" was his reply. So we ended up eating at the cultural village instead. I don't mind telling you, it was mighty tasty. Rabbit brains and all...

The story of the legendary gang of ruffians, the Black Panthers, remains shrouded in mystery. The story is that they were a group of

tough guys from Ojaj in the late sixties and early seventies who terrorized God-fearing folk. According to some people here, they could be identified by the X's carved into their hands, tight pants and leather jackets bearing their insignia. Oh, even their "chicks" had X's carved on their hands. I asked if they fought the good fight with the now-defunct, at least in Chibougamau, motorcycle gang Sex Fox, but no one was sure. One also wonders if they drove Harley Davidsons or Indians...

June 21, 1996 (Vol. 3, No. 15)

Ladies, gentlemen and other readers of Rez Notes I humbly accept your nomination for Grand Chief. Thank you. If elected I pledge to change my title to a less loftier one such as Grand-But-Still-Modest-Chief. I also promise not to complain bitterly after signing agreements that the other party is not fulfilling its end of the bargain. You know they will be broken. During my reign I will abuse power only on weekends. Starting, of course, on Thursday nights and ending Monday evening. I will not be photographed while slumped over a drink-filled table at a certain bar in Dorval. I will hire one of my brothers to look into and expose any and all cases of nepotism in the Cree Nation. Any gifts I receive from heads of state during my rule, I will hand over to the head office in Nemaska where common folk such as yourselves can freely appreciate them. I shall go to and fro over the earth assuring people of all races and creeds that Cree is not a four-letter word. I will use all my earthly powers to separate from Canada and join our brothers in Antarctica. If I should fail in this sacred mission I promise to try again, again and yet again. So, please, promise you'll vote early and often for me on election day...



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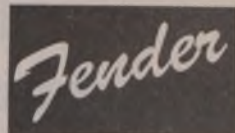
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Mysterious sight

By George M. Shecapio

The first of many "sighting" stories to appear in The Nation. February 17, 1995 (Vol. 2, No. 5)

On Nov. 7, 1991, between 5:22 and 5:24 p.m., I was turning right to the street where I live and at the same instant I saw a bright orange yellowish light travelling behind the tree tops, behind the Telebec Tower eastward of the town of Mistissini.

From my judgement, the object was relatively close. If I'm not mistaken, it sort of made a turn towards the village at an angle-wise position. At the time it came toward the village. The first thing that came to my mind was it's a chopper flying at night. But at the same time it was somewhat curious.

Then at that point, I saw what looked like two headlights. And I also saw what I thought looked like blue, red or green strobe lights. It somewhat appeared to be lighted all around. A few houses obstructed my view. But it appeared again. This time it appeared to have changed its colours to a blue-greenish type...

At the same time I was pulling up to my driveway honking my horn to catch the attention of my family who were inside the house. One of my boys managed to get out in time to see it go by for about three to five seconds. I personally witnessed the event for about 10 seconds or more along with a neighbour who happened to be walking by facing the same direction on the opposite side of the road.

I remember lowering my car window to listen or hoping to hear turbulence or listen to a chopper fly by. But to my surprise I did not hear anything other than my truck purring like a kitten. I then asked

the person walking on the other side of the street if she heard anything. She confirmed not hearing anything.

Maybe this sounds crazy. However, I did feel a little somewhat strange. Anyway I saw what I saw...

Ed. Note: Other sightings of a mysterious object were reported at the same time from people at Perch River (10 miles away) and people travelling on the road from Chibougamau (30 miles away). Similar reports later came in from Schefferville and Gagnon.

The Monster

Written by: Johnny Brien, Grade 4 (Voyageur Memorial School)

One of the entries in the 2nd Nation and Cree School Board Essay Contest. Dec. 29, 1995 (Vol. 3, No. 3)

Once there was a boy named Patrick. He was a brave boy. One day when he was finished his supper he went into the woods to get some wood. He saw a U.F.O. He went to see what was in the U.F.O. He saw a monster coming at him. The monster said, "What's your name?" Patrick was too scared to say his name. Then Jewyll, Jeremy, Noah and I saw the monster eating Patrick. Jeremy ran home and didn't come back. The police came and shot the monster. The monster died. Jewyll, Jeremy, Noah, Patrick and I were in the hospital. The police took the monster and threw him in the dump. The police were happy that the monster was dead. Later the U.F.O. came back to pick up the monster but he was dead.



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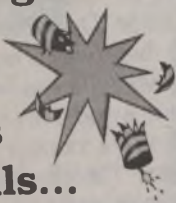
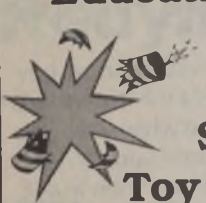
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Respect for nature

By Paul Dixon

March 17, 1995 (Vol. 2, No. 7)

Just like my ancestors, my father was born in the bush when his mother still had fresh snow on her moccasins. The place he was born was called "Jack Pine's River," translated. Upon one of his visits during winter to the area where he was born, on a mountain called "Wab-bon-nuu-chii," he killed his first moose, at age 15.

A decade later in a different area while portaging, he met his future wife. Together they roamed and hunted on land my father was familiar with, never staying too long in one place. As years went by, there were seven of us children. Three of us were born in the bush, the rest my mother rushed out of the bush by sled or canoe to be born in a hospital. But the child and mother always came back to live in the bush, where home was. I have fond memories of childhood days, hunting with my father in and around "Lolled Shak-hii-gun," a lake named after one of my sisters who was born there.

When we were younger, my father and teacher, who is still in the bush today, shared with us many hunting stories. However, I will always remember the one about the moose and a time when they were very scarce. When you came across moose tracks on your trapline during winter, you did your utmost to get that moose. My father said he would sleep four or five nights outside in very cold weather tracking the moose. This was often the case, he said. There was no choice. You could not turn back empty-handed because when you left your loved ones back home, they barely had

any more food to eat. You were happy and grateful when the moose (animal) gave himself to you. You would never forget the place(s).

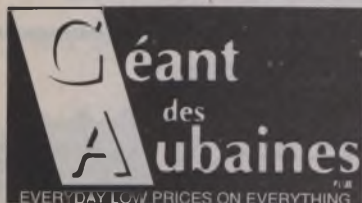
"But you must remember," my father mentioned, "one would never have come so far and killed a moose if it were not for the squirrel cooked on a stick, or the small leg of rabbit you carried in your hunting bag. Sometimes on those long journeys when you were hungry you suckled only on a partridge foot saving the rest for your family." My father's father pointed out to him, as he would with us, to respect all animals and birds equally. He said, "Without the smaller animals, how could one hope to catch the bigger ones."

As I had grown up in the bush with the trees and animals and birds, I gradually understood what my great-grandfather had said once: "The animals know us by name."

Looking back now, a father with three children and a wife, I am very grateful to be alive today, surrounded by the beauty of Creation.

Let's always remember the patience and time our Elders took to teach us to respect as well as understand nature and its supposedly mysterious ways. We must also be patient and take the time to teach our children what we were taught about nature, to give back a little. Because deep down we really do care about life. We need the land as much as the land needs us. We must never, never lose respect for nature (wildlife). This bond must be forever or we, Cree people, will be lost forever. Eegodeh. Mequetch.

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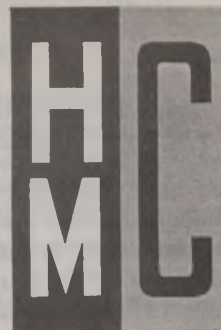
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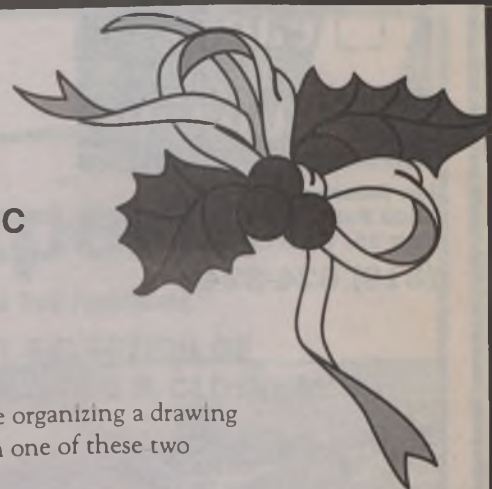
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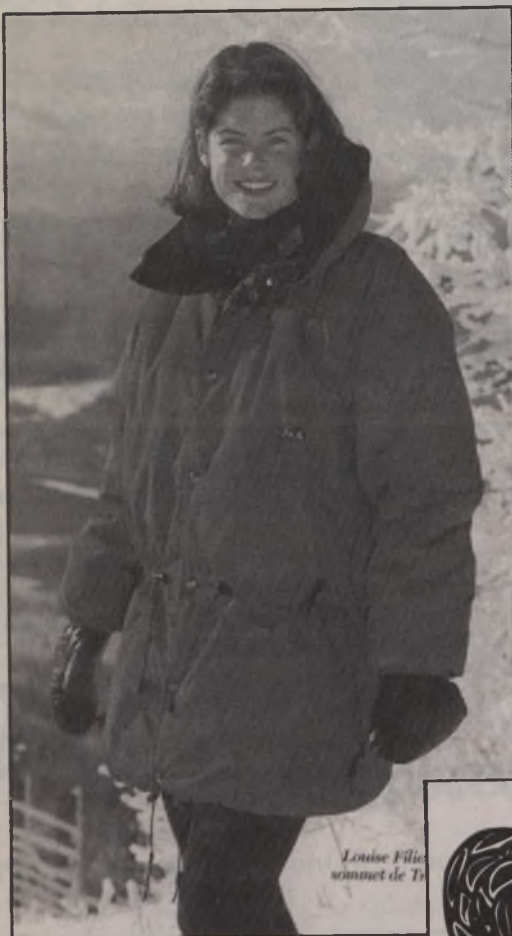
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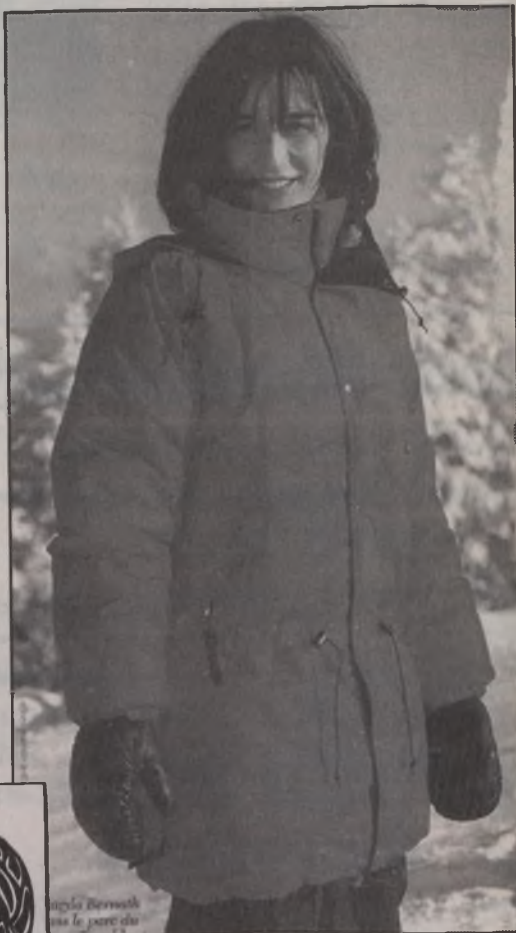
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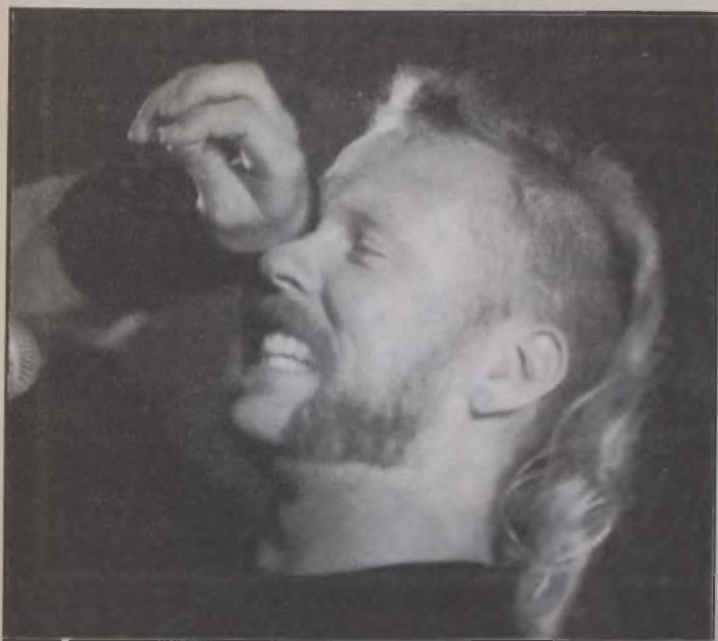
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My Cousin "George"

By Clifford Mayappo

This essay was a runner-up in our first Cree Nation Youth Essay Contest. November 18, 1994 (Vol. 1, No. 23)

In English class recently, we read a story by W.P. Kinsella, called "Strings." The main character, Ellsworth, reminds me of my cousin—I'll call him George—who lives in another Cree community. George always bosses me around.

One time he came here to Wemindji and he lived at our Aunt Minnie's house. I went out to get him and we walked around the town. Then we went to the store and he wanted me to steal some pop and put it in my pocket. Instead of stealing, I decided to pay. Then he said, "Clifford, buy me some chocolate." So I bought him a chocolate bar.

When it was time for supper and I wanted to go home, he said, "Please, don't go home," and he forced me to eat at our aunt's house, and so I did and he was happy. After we ate supper, he wanted me to stay over. I couldn't believe it. He'd been here for just one day, and already he was bossing me around.

In the night time he always wanted to break something—to get in trouble. And he always wanted to fight someone who was mean and tough. He wouldn't quit until he got beaten real bad. And he was always calling girls—even though they didn't like him.

One time George and I went fishing at a special place. When we got there, we saw some fish in the water. There were about 20 of them. While he was trying to catch them, we heard some people talking in the bush and then we saw a dog running towards us. We had a twenty-two rifle and George took it and he aimed it at the dog and he shot the dog. Then we heard people running towards us and we ran away and they didn't see us. We felt tired and lazy. I didn't believe that he killed the dog. We kept running until George fell down in a lake and we lost the rifle in the water.

When we went home, we were in trouble because of the rifle. It was our cousin Rodney's rifle. I went home and they sent me to bed. The next day George left.

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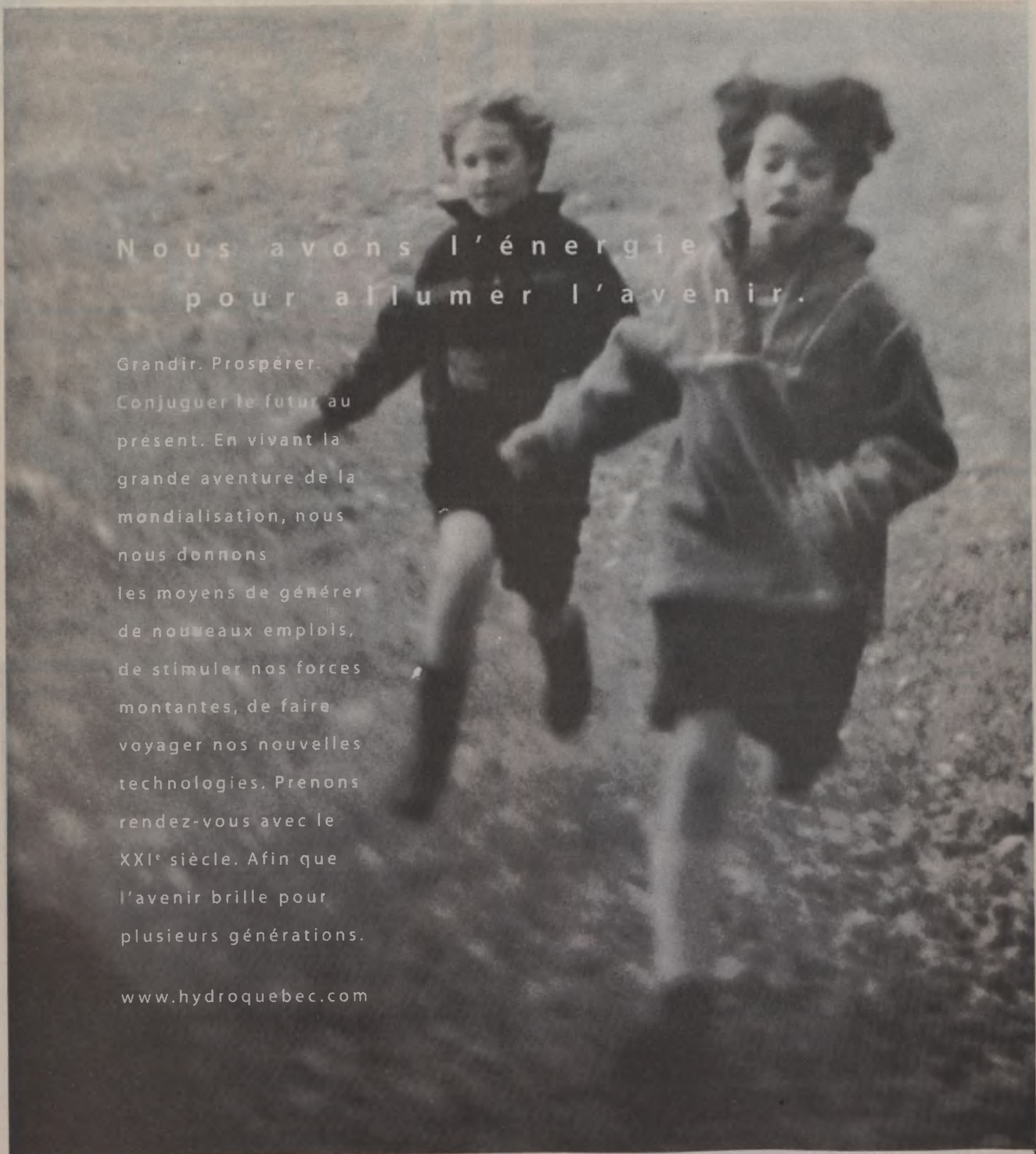
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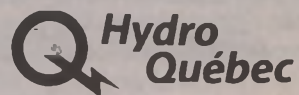
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A black and white photograph of two children running towards the camera in a grassy field. The child in the foreground is a girl with dark hair, wearing a dark jacket and shorts, running with her arms outstretched. The child in the background is a boy, also running. The background is a soft-focus field of grass.

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Une énergie nouvelle

What's in & out in '95

By Ernest Webb
Jan. 20, 1995
(Vol. 2, No. 3)



OUT

OJ Simpson
Suicide
Order of the Solar Temple
Great Whale
National unity
Clear-cutting
Blockades
Flesh-eating diseases
NHL
Spirits
Redskins caps
AFN
Short, bald and ugly

Quebec sovereignty
Hello
Goodbye
Hydro/Nuclear power
Charlie Watt (former
Makivik president)
Residential schools
Cree

IN

OJ (the community)
Blacking out
Order of fries
SM-3
Aboriginal unity
Traplines
Occupations
Eating flesh (caribou, etc.)
Tournaments
Spirituality
Raptors caps
ANC
Vertically, follically and
aesthetically challenged
Cree sovereignty
Whenchii
Akuuda
Wind power
Charlie Watts (Rolling Stones
drummer)
Universities
liyuu/linuuch

100th ISSUE

Caretakers of this planet

By Margaret Sam Cromarty

This story in our first issue was the first of many contributions by Margaret Sam Cromarty. Dec. 1, 1993 (Vol. 1, No.1)

This is the Year of the Indigenous People, for the world to recognize this unique culture that exists today. The question is: What have we done to promote our culture here at home and abroad? In our own communities I would venture to say "nothing." But then I might be wrong.

The fact of the matter is we are still Indigenous People. Or have we become affluent? Have we crossed the line to the other side, confused, not understanding ourselves, who we are, or what we should do. Of course we know who we are, but keeping our identity and culture is something else. To preserve our culture we must keep our native tongues alive and most of all our lands. Without land, we will surely lose our indigenous ways. All indigenous people are caretakers of this planet who have survived for thousands of years from the fruits of what it had to offer.

Others came here 500 years ago to destroy, pollute and rape the land and thrust some form of genocide onto its indigenous inhabitants. What will the land be like for our children, 500 years from now? Will this planet be the next moon -- lifeless?



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CLASSIFIEDS

100-BIRTHS

Congratulations to Rodney and Delores on the birth of their baby boy on November 16, 1997 at 8:59 p.m., 7 lbs., 14 oz. Love always, mom, dad, sisters and brothers.

Congratulations to my new friend who I met in Val d' Or, Sherry Ann Stephen Jolly on the birth of her twin daughters, Alyssa and Melissa. Fr your new friend Dinah Duff (Chis) I finally came home.

101-BIRTHDAYS

A belated birthday message to my aunt Hilda Stephen on September 29, 1997. Just a little late, but still on time to wish you a year round of happiness. Hope you had a lovely birthday! From your niece Geraldine Hester (Waskaganish)

Happy birthday to my daughter Margo E. on December 4, 1997 and to my sister Mabel M. on December 8, 1997. We wish you all the best and many more to come. We love you both so much. Love always, Janie and Walter, Justin, baby Wabaguin.

Happy birthday to Shadow in Chisasibi on November 18, 1997. Take good care of yourself. Friend and partner in crime Jaffy Jafar

My dog Smally and I would like to wish my brother Jordan Bear a happy birthday on November 22. He will be 13 years old. Remember, teenagers don't pick on their little brothers and their dogs. Smally promises to watch you very carefully while you are eating your birthday cake. I know you'll just love that. Chatter! chatter!

Happy birthday to Ryan on November 29, 1997. Have a wonderful day and we hope your dreams and wishes come true as you celebrate your special day. Love always, Cherish and Shiuguin. xoxoxoxo

This birthday wish goes out to our son Trevor Leroy Moar who will be celebrating his 7th birthday on the 21st of November, 1997. Happy birthday Trevor and we love you so much. Love always, Mom and dad Moar in Waskaganish.

We want to wish our dad Vance Bear a happy birthday on November 30. Dad, you can have the TV all day on your birthday. You can watch hockey and baseball since you are getting to old to play anyway. Love, your sons, Jordan and Lucas.

Happy birthday to mom Minnie Moar on November 26, 1997. We love you mom and thank you for your love and support in everything. You're very special to many of us. With Bert, Shirley Moar and family in Waskaganish.

I would like to wish my daughter a very happy first birthday on December 12, 1997. Her name is Morgan Ruperthouse and a big thank you to Lou Lou for being such a good mother. Love, dad Jackson O

Happy 7th birthday to our bro Trevor Mar on November 21, 1997. Hope you have what you deserve. We love you. From your bros., Shawn and Ernest and your sister Michelle in Waskaganish

Happy birthday to my baby boy George MP Hester on November 19, 1997 whom I adore and love very much. Happy 28th and many more to come. Love always, your mommy Ella Hester in Waskaganish.

Happy 28th birthday to the funniest Cree in Waskaganish (Air Creebec) Agent George MP Hester who will be celebrating on November 19, 1997. Happy birthday and many more to come. We will always love you. bro. From your sisters Bessie in Moose Factory, Ontario, Josephine, Barbara, Shirley and Lily in Waskaganish and your bros. Patterson, Norman, Willie and Howard in Waskaganish.

Special belated birthday greetings to our daughter Adrianna Moses Erless which was on October 30, 1997. Since the day you were born, you have brought us so much joy and happiness. We love you so much. With love, mommy and daddy Elaine and Adrian. xoxoxoxoxo. P.S. Happy belated 1st birthday sweetie.

Belated birthday wishes and happy ones too! for Terence Jonas Hester who turned six on November 12. Terence, you're special and we love you very much. From Thomas, Tracy and Tricia. (Waskaganish)

Happy birthday to Freddy Coonishish on November 21 who lives in Chisasibi. From Googum Kitty in Mistissini

Happy birthday to my two adorable little kids, Amelia on Dec. 14 Tyrone on Dec. 9. She will be 4 years and he will be three years old. I remember when you both were born a year apart. I'll never forget. We love you both a lot Mom & Dad xxx

Happy birthday to my beautiful, sweet, adorable and huggable sister Cynthia Sheshamush on November 12. Hope your day will be as special as you are. Hugs and kisses though you are miles away. Love your sister Brenda

Happy 17th birthday to my special friend Rachel Longchap on Sept. 24. Hope you enjoyed your special day. Wish you all the best in school and take care. From your friend Queenie (Mist).

Happy 19th birthday to Johnny Ice. on Nov. 27. We hope you have fun on your birthday. Don't party on your birthday. Just drink 7up instead of Bud. From all of us at 113 Poplar St. (Was)

Happy birthday to a sweet adorable and most of all beautiful girl, Mary Betty-Ann Gillies on November 18. I'm really glad I have a little sister like you. You have inspired me with your adorable smiles. Anyways have fun on your birthday. And try to not eat too much cake or else you will end up in your bed, sick. Happy 4th birthday. Hugs and kisses. Love always and 4-ever, your sister Bessie in Waskaganish xoxox

Denise Dawn, it's birthday time again. Happy birthday to my niece on December 4, with love auntie Anita R. Katapatuk

A special day for Redfern Edward on December 12. Happy birthday Red (Wask). Also a birthday wish to Noreen Moar (Nem) on the 17th. From Anita Rosie Katapatuk. (Wask)

Birthday greetings to our grandchildren Redfern Edward and Dec. 17 and to Denise Dawn-Sophia on Dec. 4. We love you from Grandma and Grandpa Katapatuk (Wask)

Happy birthday mom. I want you to know how grateful I am to have as a mother, sister and a friend. I love you very much because you are everything. I never thought you would be like a sister to me. I remember complaining being the only daughter in the family. You were always there for me when I had my ups and downs and today you're still there when I need you. Thanks for everything, Mom. Happy birthday to my beautiful mother Mary (Moar) Katapatuk (Wask) on the 20th on November. With love your daughter Anita Katapatuk (Wask).

Happy 4th birthday "HappyJack." I left home

on November 20, 1993 to Val d'Or o wait for you to be born. Five days later, I was blessed with a handsome little baby boy. When I first held you in my arms, I looked at you with a smile and said "Welcome to the world, son," and kissed you on your dark little cheek. Son, I will always be beside you if you need a friend to talk to or if you need a shoulder to cry on. Always remember sticks and stones can break your bones but names can never hurt you. Love you with all my heart. Count on me son. Happy 4th birthday to my sweet, handsome little guy. Calvin Reginald (Taylor) Robert HappyJack on November 25. Love always mom. xox (Anita Rose Katapatuk) Wask

Happy birthday to our grandmother Mary (Moar) Katapatuk (Wask) on November 20. Can't wait for you to come back from the bush so you can babysit us. Ha! With love your grandchildren, Redfern, Calvin, Denise, Ashlyn and Meyaubin. (Wask)

Happy birthday to our mother Janis Shecapio. Have a great time. Have fun on November 14. Best wishes! From your daughter and your son. Romeo and Kathleen.

Happy 13th birthday to Elsa Swallow on November 17, 1997. Hope you enjoy your special day and many more to come and you're a special friend. From your friends, Jennifer H., Andrea Wapachee and Kathleen Shecapio and Margaret D.

A big happy birthday to Jordan Bear who will be 13 on November 22. Hope you have a good time on your birthday. Just because you're a teenage doesn't mean we will stop hunting you down when you don't show up for your curfew. Nice try anyway. Love, mom and dad

Happy belated birthday wish going out to my best friend Catherine Wash on November 16. With many wishes a happiness you will bring in your life. Take good care of your self. So once again I'd like to wish you a very special birthday. From your friend Patricia Neacappo. P.S. Take care girl.

103-ANNIVERSARIES

Happy 14th anniversary to our loving parents James and Linda Neeposh on November 5. We wish you both all the best in the years to come and we love you. Love always, Queenie, Quincy, Eugene, Gilbert and of course Bedabin. xoxoxo

Happy 5th anniversary to my brother Floyd

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CLASSIFIEDS

and his wife Patricia on November 20 (Wask).
With love Anita, Calvin and Meyaubin (Wask).

300-PERSONALS

We wish to extend our sincere congratulations to Chief Billy Diamond on being awarded the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa at Carleton University. Your many sacrifices for the past 25 years are a prime example of dedication to the Cree Nation. We are all very proud of you Doctor Diamond. From your family and friends at Waskaganish First Nation.

Hi, hello, how are you? to my cousin Murray Blackned in Mississini. I'm so proud of you playing for the Cree Nation Bears. Keep playing hard and don't quit even if sometimes you get homesick. From your cousin and friends, Geraldine Hester in Waskaganish.

Hi to my buddies in Whapmagoostui Dianne, Jeannie, Randy West, Joker, King, Donkey, Paul Too Much, Charlie, Little One, Melvin, Richie Rich, Isaac Pet., and Bububum! Don't party 2 much as if u gonna listen. Oh yeah Peter Smoke, don't smoke 2 much. Luv u all. Peace. From 22 year old.

Wanted - good woman able to clean, cook, sew, dig worms and clean fish. Must have boat and motor. Please send a picture of boat and motor to 243 Queen St., PO Box 39, Mississini Lake, Quebec, Baie du Poste, G0W 1C0. Thank you.

A big hello to these good friends of mine! in Was. Jessica I. My best friend and my best cuzins Melanie N. & Kristen W. also some others, IB, CC, EMH, AH, GH, JG, EW, SI, WN, KN. I guess SM & Rocky, your bud! Leah Simard, Mont

To Blue. I'm here working, thinking of you. So, when will you be coming to town. I can't wait. It's gonna be a blast. Call me some time. From B, QotBP (I'll tell you later)

Hi Stella I, Hi Evelyn G. Take good care girls, hope to see you guys very soon. I mean very soon. From Anita Katapatuk

Angela Saganash of Waswanipi. You are my new secret pal. I am already praising God for giving me such a special person to share with throughout the year. The Lord your God will bless you in all your works. Deuteronomy 15:10. God bless you secret pal.

Hello to my friends from Wemindji, Eastmain, Montreal, Chisasibi, Mississini and Whapmagoostui. Hazel Hughboy, Erica Gilpin, Sarah Visitor, Misty Cheezo, Nian Moses, April George, Bessie House, Rachelle Lafond, Christine Kitty, Rachel Longchap, Queenie Neeposh, Karen Trapper, Sarah Menarick, Judy Masty, Sheila Rupert, Susie Rupert, Donna Rupert, Jeannie Mamianscum, and Enomey Masty. How come you guys don't write to me My address is 5300 D'Orleans, Apt. 4, Montreal Quebec, H1X 2K7. Oh yeah, Natazia Mukash too. From Andrea Jasmine Mamianscum xox.

I'd like to say hi to Angela in Ottawa. So, how's city life treating you Reservation life has been treating me fine, I guess. I hop I'll be

BAAPITAAU

CBC North - Québec



Do you have a funny home video, a funny story or a joke? To celebrate Maamuitaau's 15th anniversary send them to CBC on videotape and you could win the BIG prize!

Submissions must be in the Québec Cree language and no longer than 5 minutes.

Entries must be received no later than March 2, 1998. Send your videotape to: CBC North - Québec, PO Box 6000, Montreal, Québec, H3C 3A8.

(Videotapes will be returned only if a self-addressed stamped envelope is included.)



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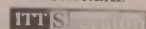
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1998

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seeing you soon From someone in Waskaganish.

From Romeo, to Juliet. Hi there. How's it been. I hope you still remember me. It's been a long time I didn't hear from you. Anyway, maybe I'll see you soon. Can I have you ad. Hoping to hear from U. xox From Romeo in ????

I would like to say hi to my buddies in Eastmain. How y'all doing. up there. Goose break is coming up so try not to shoot each other in the backs. See you guys soon in Ottawa.

Dad (Rodney) you've waited so long for me to come into your life. Now I am finally here. In time to wish you the very best Father's Day you've ever had. Your Pal, your buddy, your son, Cody.

I would like to send my love to my best friend, my husband, Rodney. We would like to send hugs and kisses to our Dad, Rodney. Happy Father's Day from the three of us, Jennifer, Trish and Andi.

We just want to say, danideen, hi, hello, how's it going, what's up, how's life, watchia to Jason Longchap. From Nancy and Betsie in Montreal. Chow, bye, see ya!!! P.S. Take care.

Hi to a beautiful girl in Waswanipi by the name of Carly Kitchen. I don't see you a lot, but to me you are the cutest girl in the Cree nation. I'll see you sometime this summer. From a boy in the Cree nation.

Wanted: Moose or caribou antlers- natural or weather bleached- qty of 10 willing to pay \$20 to \$50 per set. Call Andrew at 819-895-2715, Waskaganish, Quebec

I would like to say thank you to my daddy. Thank you daddy for getting up at night when I want my father, for getting my bottle for me when I'm thirsty, for giving me a bath when it's bath time, for holding me and showing me how much you love me. My daddy is #1 and his name is Ben Dixom. I want the world to know that I have the best daddy anyone could ask for. Have a wonderful 1st father's day. I love you very much. Alycia Ashton Nibish.

I would like to congratulate my daughter Rosanna Mayappu on her walking out ceremony on June 1997. You don't know how happy I am to see you take your first steps onto our mother nature. I can't describe how much I love you and how much you mean to me. You have been the greatest joy of my life and just seeing your face makes me so happy and just hearing you say mommy makes me love you more. You are the reason I look forward to each day. You have given me so much love, joy and laughter. There is nothing I wouldn't do for you. I will make sure your life is full of love, and happiness because you need all the love you can get. I love you! From your mommy.

Hi, hello, how are you? to my cousin Murray Blackned in Mississini. I'm so proud of you, playing for the Cree Nation Bears. keep playing hard and don't stop. Even if sometimes you get homesick. From your cousin and friend Geraldine Hester. (Waskaganish)

To a very special guy in Chisasibi. The first time we met in the back of Chateau Louis whoever knew what would happen next. One thing I really admire about you is your sensitivity. P.S. I want to stand with you on mountains. Well I guess we surely had an all nighter eh! Sorry if you didn't get any sleep. Time went so fast. I'll make a wish and get to heaven and make you want to cry. See you someday soon again. From Mmmm

To my nephews, Dallas (Dally Boy) and

Dakota (Kakoo) and the little guy Chiiwetin Blacksmith in North Bay, Ont. I miss you guys a lot. I hope to see you soon and also I miss your parents too. It's not the same when I don't see you guys around. I will try to come to North Bay soon. take care. Love you guys. Uncle Claude Blacksmith.

Hey you hockey fans, Gordie Howe came out of retirement. So watch out (CNIT) for this year's come back from OJ. He's quick, he's fast and he's got talent. Good luck to the over 40

hockey category. OJ.

Susan Dick from Moose Factory, Ontario. Please contact Bernadette Piwas, Box 51, Davis Inlet, Labrador, A0P 1A0. Or call (709)478-8827, 8902. Fax (709)478-8936. ...

Coming September 12, 13, 14, 1998 Quebec Native Women's Ministries retreat for teens, singles, moms and elders. Val d'Or. Plan now to come. A heart for the harvest. Join us for fellowship, fun, fabulous teaching, fantastic music. Mark dates on calendar today!



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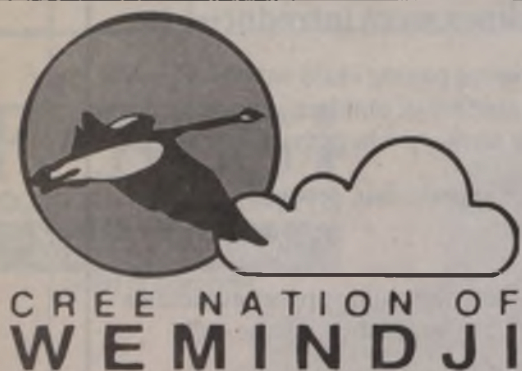
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The Cree School Board
would like to wish all participants
of the 1997 Cree Nation
Invitational Tournament
the best of luck.

Not all can win,
but to the winners — Congratulations!



— — — — —
*The Chief, Council
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Good luck to all in the
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FREE SPEECH CURTAILED: INNU

Back to the meeting. It was two days of workshops and the end result would be that a statement would be agreed upon and issued by both American and Quebec activists. It would be in French and English. Everyone would work towards that. It would be a time for everyone to make connections and continue the long work of fighting the damage that some multi-nationals do in their pursuits of money.

The Innu have been in the spotlight more and more these days. They are coming into their own concerning public relations. In fact they had a heavier contingent than the Crees. The Innu brought up the fact that the freedom of expression had been curtailed in Innu territory, with many supporters barred from protesting development under the law. In fact, an Innu Band Council by-law prohibits protesting against band-approved projects, according to the Innu presenters.

The Innu say they are looking at the completion of Ste. Marguerite III dam and reservoir, at least four diversions in Nitassinan and proposed diversions to the Moisie River.

On Sunday, environmental activists from both sides of the border finally found common ground. They finished a resolution on energy in Montreal on November 16. Part of the resolution call for a public debate as well as the use of conservation, energy efficiency and demand-side management before any new projects are even contemplated.

It also calls for the "elimination of waste, reductions in use and conversions to more efficient and benign technologies." The joint submission also says: "Economic policies should as a priority encourage investment in energy conservation and energy efficiency, followed by renewable energy sources such as wind and solar."

The resolution also condemns damming and diverting rivers completely. "Free-flowing rivers, rapids and falls should remain free flowing. Any exception would require a prior open public debate," said the resolution. The resolution also calls for the phasing out of coal, oil and nuclear power options.

Native participants, though heartened by the support shown, were a little disappointed on the weak stand on Aboriginal rights. Though the U.S. environmentalists supported a strong stance protecting Aboriginal rights and their recognition, Quebec activists had another story.

One, a member of the PQ, would not at first accept any wording concerning Native interests unless it was included that Crees and other Natives in Quebec were Quebecois first. Other Quebec activists warned that strong wording supporting Aboriginal positions would tear apart the Quebec coalition. After debating the issues amongst themselves a compromise was reached: Wording would be included to involve the Indigenous peoples.

"We believe that human activity in the energy sector should be

governed by the principles of environmental sustainability and social justice and respect for the rights of all peoples, including indigenous peoples, not to be deprived of their natural heritage," read the resolution's only reference to Native peoples.

On Monday, activists gathered at Hydro-Quebec's head offices at noon. After various speeches it was time to give Hydro-Quebec's President Andre Caille his gifts. The gifts included a chalking gun, energy efficient lightbulb and a solar panel. The major hitch came when Hydro-Quebec security blocked the doors refusing to allow activists to enter the building. Fortunately for the demonstrators another door was unguarded and they made it inside. Unfortunately for Hydro-Quebec, news cameras caught the whole fiasco. You could see anger, confusion and disbelief on the faces of Hydro employees as the activists began chanting inside the front lobby.

Hydro-Quebec security wouldn't let the activists up to see Hydro top gun but did accept the gifts. Tooker Gomberg asked for a receipt.



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cree@large

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Here it is, the long awaited and much hyped section of The Nation: *cree@large*! Repeat after me. Cree at large. There you go.

I know what you're thinking. Large Crees, right? In a bizarre way, you're almost right. Large Crees. Large in the sense, I guess, that they are not necessarily obese, but giants in what they do and are. *Cree@large* will profile Crees, and once in a while, non-Crees. After all, in the end, aren't we all Cree? They will reveal their deepest and darkest secrets and bare their souls. They will answer profound questions such as, "What's your name?" Even something as mundane as "When do you lie?"

Hell, we'll even ask about their first kiss and how they lost their virginities. Just to keep it interesting.

So if you have anyone in mind who'd be a good subject, contact my agent here at The Nation. I'll have my people call your people. Egoodeh? Egoodeh.

Our first guest is someone whose writing you may remember from these pages, **Margaret Cromarty**. You're wondering, "Why Margaret?"

Well, not only is Margaret the "poet laureate" of the Cree Nation, she has also published two books of her poetry and has just finished a tour of several New England states. She is also a funny, bright, gifted, honest and beautiful woman who is not afraid to speak her mind. Besides, dammit, she's a Virgo like me. So there.

What's the best advice you've ever heard?

Do not be afraid.

Favorite politician.

I don't have any. They're all crooked.

What talent would you like to have?

I think I would like to be a politician (laughs).

Person, living or dead, you would like to meet most.

The person I wanted most to meet when he was still alive was, you won't like this, Bourassa.



Where were you when the JBNQA was signed?

I was in Fort George. We didn't know about it until later.

Your vote for "Honorary Cree."

Ginette. She's a teacher in Chisasibi.

What did you want to be when you were young?

I wanted to be a white person. I'm probably like a white person now!! (laughter)

Most treasured possessions.

My children, my books and my gift as a writer.

If you were an animal, which would it be and why? (give three choices)

A dog. Because they're not nasty and they're faithful companions. And when someone says, "Hi" we turned to face them even though our names are not "Hi." A dog will not turn to you when you say "Hi". Only when you say their names. And then, maybe I'd be a goose because it tastes so good. I would taste so good (laughs). Or a fish. I would be able to swim under water.

Greatest regret.

That I didn't attend school longer.

Song you would like played at your funeral.

"I Saw The Light" by Hank Williams.

Who would play you in a movie?

Cher with her bellybutton.

Most embarrassing moment.

I was trying to get through US customs at Toronto's airport and I lost my Indian status card. The customs agent said, "I know you're Indian but others won't." William went to look for it but it was in my purse all this time.

Favorite time of day.

Morning. I like to go out before anyone else is up. It's a quiet time.

Favorite author.

Pauline Johnson. She wrote *Flint and Arrow*, a poetry book.

Vices.

Wanting material things, like a new couch — my couch got stolen.

Why poetry?

It relaxes me and because I enjoy it.

First person you showed your poetry to.

A tourist. An American tourist.

What did they say or do?

You should have it published. You should share it with the rest of the world.

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